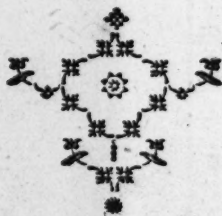


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THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
Jemmy and Jenny Jeffamy.

BY MRS. HAYWOOD.

R.  
IN THREE VOLUMES.



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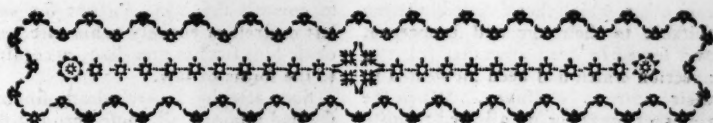
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THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
JEMMY AND JENNY JESSAMY.

VOLUME THE FIRST.

CHAP. I.

MAY MORE PROPERLY BE CALLED  
AN INTRODUCTION TO THE EN-  
SUING HISTORY, THAN PART OF  
IT.



JEMMY and Jenny Jessamy were originally descended from two male branches of the same family, as it may be reasonably supposed, they

both being of the same name, and having the same escutcheon; but to trace how far the relationship between them was removed, would require much time and trouble in examining old records, memorandums, and church-registers, and cost more than the acquisition would be worth, as it could not be found any way material to the history.

It shall therefore suffice to say, that Jemmy was the only son of a gentleman of a competent estate, and Jenny sole daughter and heiress of a wealthy merchant; that their parents had always called cousins, had lived with each other in the most perfect friendship, the tokens of which each seemed equally desirous should continue beyond the grave; and, to this end, resolved on a marriage between their children, pro-

vided that, when they arrived at years of maturity, neither of them should have any objection to such an union.

As this agreement was very early made, and the accomplishment of it was seriously wished for by both parties, all imaginable care was taken to excite in the children a mutual affection for each other, and to make the name of Love familiar to them long before they knew what was meant by the word, much less could have any notion of the passion; depending on this maxim of the poet—

‘Children, like tender osiers, take the bow;

‘And, as they first are fashion’d, still will  
‘grow.’

Jemmy, who had four years the advantage of Jenny, was taught to call her his little wife, even while in her cradle; and Jenny no sooner began to speak, than she was made to say the loved her husband Jemmy in her heart.

As their years increased, and they became capable of receiving the first rudiments of education befitting their different sexes, Jemmy was sent to Eton, and Jenny to a boarding-school at a small village not far from London: but, to atone for this separation, they were instructed, by those who had the care of them, to write little epistles to

each other, which they dictated in terms suitable to their age and innocence, and served to keep alive that spirit of affection which had been inculcated in their more early infancy. When the times of breaking-up allowed them to return to their friends, they were seldom asunder; they partook together all those diversions prepared for them by their indulgent parents; and sometimes Jemmy, and sometimes Jenny, were at the head of the feast, all others being but their invited guests. Jemmy was continually presenting Jenny with some curious and new-invented toy; and the first-fruits of Jenny's handy-work was a fine embroidered waistcoat and cap for Jemmy.

By this means it became a kind of second nature in them to love each other: the affection they began in infancy grew up with their years; and if what they felt as they approached nearer to maturity did not amount to a passion, it was, at least, somewhat more than is ordinarily found between a brother and a sister.

The two fathers, however, were highly contented with the effect their endeavours had produced in the hearts of their children; and doubted not but, by the prudent measures that had been taken in the education of both, they should one day see them make very shining figures in the state of marriage; which they resolved should be delayed no longer than till Jemmy had arrived at the age of one-and-twenty, at which time Jenny would be some months past seventeen.

But how uncertain is life! How fallible the prospects it presents! It often happens that, when they seem most near, they either vanish of themselves, or we are suddenly snatched from them. The father of Jenny, though a man whose healthy constitution, according to all appearance, promised a much longer date, died in an apoplectick fit; and she became an orphan three years before the time prefixed for the completion of her marriage.

This fatal accident must necessarily involve the tender and affectionate heart of this young girl in very great affliction; but it was less severely felt, as she had always been bred to look on the father of Jemmy as a second parent to herself: she therefore hesitated not

to commit the large fortune she was left mistress of entirely to his care, and chose him for her guardian, according to the forms of law.

Soon after her father's death, finding she had attained all those accomplishments that could be taught her in a boarding-school, she removed from thence; and, with the approbation of her guardian, went to live with a family where she had a much better opportunity of seeing the world, and knowing how to conform herself to the customs and manners of it, than ever she could have done by the precise rules observed in the place she came from.

Jemmy had some time before left Eton, and was gone to Oxford in order to finish his studies; but he obtained leave from the head of the college to make frequent visits to London, induced thereto by the double obligation of testifying his duty to his father and affection to his mistress. To these two motives, a third, perhaps, might be added, equally prevalent with either of the former; that of partaking the pleasures of the town, of which he was no less fond than most others of his sex and age.

He was but just returned to the university, from whence he had made a pretty long excursion, when he was suddenly recalled to London. The old gentleman was seized with a pleurettick fever; which, notwithstanding all the remedies proper in such cases were applied, made so swift a progress towards his heart, as threatened an immediate dissolution. It indeed proved so; for though Jemmy, on the melancholy news, took horse the same moment, and rode post to town, he arrived but just time enough to see this best of fathers breathe his last.

The pangs of death were on him, yet were his senses perfect. On his son's approach, a gleam of satisfaction diffused itself throughout all his late disordered features: he collected all the strength that was left in him to raise himself a little; and, taking hold of Jemmy's hand, and joining it to that of Jenny's, who sat weeping by the bed-side—'My dear children,' said he, 'I regret the loss of life for nothing so much as because I shall be deprived of seeing that happiness which, I hope, you will soon enjoy together.'

He

He would have added something more; but his voice forsook him, and he expired that instant.

Few young heirs look upon any thing as a real matter of affliction which makes them masters of themselves and fortunes. But Jemmy was of a different way of thinking: he had a great share both of good-sense and good-nature; and, besides what filial duty demanded from him, love and gratitude for the indulgences with which he had always been treated by his father, made him lament his loss with the most unfeigned and poignant sorrow.

Jenny was also very deeply affected at this event: she had been truly sensible of the value she ought to set upon so faithful a guardian, and so sincere a friend; and, while she used her endeavours to give his son some consolation, stood in almost equal need of receiving it herself.

The prudent old gentleman, though perhaps without any apprehensions of being so near his end, had some months before made his will; by which it appeared, on examination, that he had appointed trustees to manage both for his son and intended daughter-in-law, in case he should die before they arrived at the age of acting for themselves; and also that, by his great œconomy, he had saved, out of the receipts of his estates, several considerable sums of money, which he had placed in the publick funds; so that Jemmy found himself in possession of a much larger fortune than he had imagined, or had been made to hope for.

Soon after the melancholy solemnity of the funeral was over, he returned to Oxford; but staid no longer there than was necessary to take a decent leave of the gentlemen of the college, and other students with whom he had contracted the most intimacy.

But none of his friends or acquaintance either wondered at or condemned the haste he made to quit the university, not doubting but the sole motive of his doing so was the laudable affection for the lady intended to be his future bride.

## CHAP. II.

CONTAINS THE NARRATIVE OF A  
VERY ODD ADVENTURE, BUT  
PERFECTLY A-PROPOS, THOUGH

AT PRESENT IT MAY PERHAPS  
APPEAR A LITTLE FOREIGN TO  
THE BUSINESS IN HAND.

**D**URING the short time that Jemmy staid at Oxford, his fair mistress took it into her head to make a visit to a friend in the country, about some one or two and twenty miles distant from London; where she had received several pressing invitations to come, but had been hitherto prevented from complying by one accident or other.

This was a young lady for whom Jenny had as great a regard as for any one of her female acquaintance; they had received part of their education together: and though Sophia, for so she was called, being somewhat older than Jenny, had much sooner left the school, yet their intimacy was not broken off by this separation; and they continued to see each other as often as opportunity permitted. But the brother of Sophia, who was a batchelor, having prevailed with his sister to come down, and take upon her the management of his house, had now occasioned between these ladies an absence for many months.

It is not, therefore, to be doubted, but that Jenny found herself very sincerely welcome. Sophia omitted nothing that might convince her that she was so; and as nothing more truly demonstrates the cordiality of the heart than an open and undisguised behaviour, these ladies reciprocally related to each other all the little accidents that had befallen either of them since last they parted.

Among other things that Sophia communicated to her fair guest, she told her that her brother was about marrying, and at present was in London prosecuting his addresses for that purpose to a young lady of condition: 'Which,' said she, 'if he succeeds in, I shall not long be resident in the country, as he then will have no farther occasion for my assistance; nor should I chuse to continue in the house with a sister-in-law.'

'I sincerely wish him all the happiness he can hope for,' replied Jenny, 'not only as he is your brother, but for his own sake also; since I believe there are few men who deserve more.' — 'We are both extremely obliged to you,

'you, my dear,' returned the other; 'but I fear——'

She was going on with something which, it is likely, would have let Jenny into the quality and character of the intended bride; but was interrupted by a servant, who came hastily into the room, and told her that his master was just alighted at the gate out of a landau and fix, and had brought a very fine lady home with him.

'Bless me!' cried Sophia, in a great surprize, 'the thing we were speaking of is certainly completed! But, come,' continued she, 'let us go down to receive them, and be convinced.'

In speaking these words she took Jenny by the hand, in order to do as she had said; but was prevented by the sight of her brother and the mistress of his affections, who had come laughing up, and were already on the top of the stair-case; on which she retired some paces back, to give them room to enter.

This gentleman, whom I shall distinguish by the name of Rodophil, immediately presented Sophia to the lady, saying—'This, Madam, is the sister I have often mentioned to you.' They then saluted each other with a great deal of politeness, while he paid his compliments to Jenny; but had no sooner done so, than, turning to Sophia—'I am come a little unexpectedly upon you, sister,' said he; 'but, to make amends, have brought home a lady, who will be so good as to take off your hands the trouble of managing my family.'

'I am very ready to resign my place,' replied she with a smile, 'to one who, I doubt not, will much better fit it: but, Sir,' pursued she, in the same gay air, 'I think you should have put it in my power to have given you the last cast of my office in a more elegant manner than I am now capable of doing in this sudden surprize.'

'Nay, as to that matter, child,' cried the lady in a very familiar, and indeed somewhat of a hoydenish tone, 'you have nothing to accuse him of on this account; for I assure you neither of us thought of being here to-night, two hours before we set out from London: but I know not how it happened, but we were both in a frolicksome humour; he swore he would

'have me, and I swore if he had, he should run away with me: the impudent thing took me at my word, sent in a minute for a landau and fix, thrust me into it, and hurried me away without any farther preparation than just as you see.'

'Then the ceremony is not yet performed,' said Sophia. 'No,' replied her brother; 'but I hope to-morrow morning will put a final end to my suspense, and make me happy in my utmost wishes.—What say you, Madam,' pursued he to the lady; 'shall it not be so?'—'What occasion has the man to ask any questions?' answered she, patting him on the cheek; 'you have got me into your possession here, and must even do with me what you will.'

Soon after this Sophia withdrew, to give the necessary orders for preparing supper; which, in spite of being taken so unawares, was served up in a manner that shewed there was little need of the apology she had made on the first entrance of her new guest.

Nothing was wanting to complete the elegance of the table, but a little more politeness of behaviour in the person for whom chiefly such care had been taken in furnishing it: but though she was the daughter of a nobleman, and could not fail of having had an education suitable to her birth; yet the pride of blood, the insolence of flattered beauty, and the vanity of imagining that she could do nothing unbecoming in her, made her act and talk in so affected and so odd a manner, as greatly defaced all the charms she had received from Nature.

'You are very ugly, Rodophil,' would she cry; 'I wonder what it is I like you for!' then rejoined with the same breath—'Well, you are a dear bewitching toad, however!' One moment she would push him from her, swearing she hated him; the next pull him towards her, protesting he could not be too near. Her discourse to the ladies was also of the same piece: she told Sophia, she had a pair of fine eyes, but did not look as if she knew she had any such things in her head; and laughed at Jenny, as having reason to accuse Nature for not having endued her with the talent of elocution.

Jenny, indeed, spoke but little the whole evening; but as her silence was occasioned



occasioned by the other's excess of volubility, the usual vivacity of her temper was roused by this reproach; and she replied with some tartness—'Madam, if Sophia and myself were half so conscious as your ladyship seems to be of having every thing we said approved of, we should certainly be all speakers, and no hearers; and consequently this gentleman here be in danger of losing one of his senses, if a man in love can be supposed to have any.'

The lady, in spite of all the assurance she was possessed of, could not avoid appearing a little disconcerted at what Jenny had said. Rodophil perceiving it, thought himself obliged, as a lover, to take up the word; and, turning to Jenny—'Madam,' said he to her, 'the man who has the honour to be capable of distinguishing the perfections of that lady must certainly be supposed to have no senses for any thing but her.'

Jenny made no other reply to this, than she doubted not but his passion was worthy of the object that inspired it; and, after a few hours passed in a conversation not material enough to be repeated, Sophia conducted the mistress of her brother to an apartment she had caused to be got ready for her; and, through respect to him, waited in the room till she had seen her into bed.

Jenny having always been a sharer with Sophia in the same bed, when they were together at the boarding-school, would not hear of sleeping apart from her during the time she stayed in the country; not only to avoid giving any unnecessary trouble to the family, but also because she was willing to lose as little of her company as possible.

Though the night was pretty far advanced when the ladies went into their chamber, neither of them had the power to close their eyes without discovering to the other some part of their sentiments in relation to the intended bride.

That a young maid of quality should suffer herself to be conducted in so odd a manner by a gentleman to his country seat; and that she should behave towards him in so affected, and indeed so confident a manner, in the presence of two persons of her own sex whom she had never seen before; had something in it so new, and so strange to them,

that they could not well find words to express their astonishment.

'It must certainly be an excess of love,' said Jenny, 'that can oblige a man of Rodophil's good understanding to bear with such extravagances in the woman he makes choice of for a wife.'

'As for love,' replied the other, 'I believe that is quite out of the question; I think I may be pretty positive, from a thousand circumstances, that my brother is neither charmed with the beauties of her person, nor blind to the follies of her temper; but he imagines (how rightly I cannot as yet take upon me to determine) that her fortune, her birth, and the interest of her family, will compensate for all other deficiencies.'

Women, for the most part, are but too justly accused of being severe on the foibles of each other; and some will have it, that they even take a malicious pleasure in finding something to condemn. But it was not by this propensity that either of these ladies was intimated: the one, who loved her brother extremely, was sorry and ashamed at having observed such errors in a woman who was to be his partner for life; and the other, more through good-nature than the contrary, was vexed when any opportunity for censure presented itself.

Rodophil, however, full of the thoughts of being a bridegroom, quitted his bed much sooner than he was accustomed to do, and went to a neighbouring clergyman, who having licences always ready by him, got one immediately filled up with the two parties names; and as the thing was to be private, promised to bring a friend with him, who should officiate in giving the lady's hand.

Sophia also rose very early that morning; being willing, in spite of her dislike to this match, to do it all the honour in her power, and that the shortness of the time would admit of.

None of the family were sluggards on this occasion; all appeared in their several stations alert and cheerful; sprightliness sat on every face, except that of the intended bride. But never was there so strange, so sudden a transformation in any one person: she that had the evening before been so wildly



gay and volatile, even to a ridiculous excess, was now become quite moped and stupid; twice had Sophia been in her chamber before she could prevail on her to leave it to come down stairs; and when Rodophil accosted her with the usual salutation of the morning, and told her it was the happiest he had ever seen, she made no answer, nor scarce vouchsafed to look upon him.

On the sight of the clergyman and his friend, who came exactly at the time they were expected by Rodophil—'What is all this for?' said she suddenly; 'I will not be married.'—'Not married, Madam!' cried Rodophil; 'you are not certainly in earnest.'—'Indeed but I am: so pray let the parson go about his business; for he has none with me at this time.'

'What is it you mean, Madam?' demanded Rodophil, so much confounded that he could scarce utter these few words. 'I have told you,' answered she, 'that I will not be married, at least at present; therefore send away the man.'

'I am sorry, Sir,' said the reverend divine, 'that you did not take care to be better acquainted with the lady's mind before you gave us the trouble of waiting on you: and with these words went hastily out of the room, followed by the gentleman he had brought with him, equally affronted as surprized.

Rodophil returned after them, to make the best apology he could for the caprice, as he then imagined it, of the lady's humour. Sophia and Jenny were all this time in such a consternation, that they could only look sometimes on the person who had occasioned it, and sometimes on each other, without being able to speak a single syllable.

Rodophil returned; and, with a countenance which testified the resentment of his heart—'Madam,' said he to the lady, 'what have I done to deserve that you should treat me in this manner? What motive could induce you to render me the jest of the whole country?' try?

'If you thought me unworthy of the honour I solicited,' pursued he, 'wherefore did you encourage me to hope it? Assign at least some reason for so strange a reverse in your behaviour towards me.' These questions, and several others to the same purpose, being repeated over and over, she at last

replied, that she would satisfy him, but nobody else.

Sophia, on hearing this, started immediately from her seat, crying—'Oh, Madam! we will be no hindrance to the eclaireissement my brother has so much right to expect.' In speaking this she left them together, taking Jenny with her.

Her curiosity was, however, raised to a pitch too high not to inspire her with an eagerness to be one of the first at the explanation of this mystery: it presently came into her head, that there was a closet which opened from the passage, and was divided from the room where Rodophil and the lady were but by a thin partition; and guessing her friend's impatience by her own, they both went together, as softly as possible, into this little recess; where, putting their ears close to the pannel of the wainscot, they could easily distinguish what discourse passed on the other side.

As in reaching this place they were obliged to take a circuit through a gallery of a pretty large extent, they lost some part of what had been said, but arrived time enough to be witnesses of the main point, and to which all that had passed before could have been only the prelude.

'Married!' they heard Rodophil cry, with a voice sonorous enough to have been audible at a much greater distance, 'Death and Furies! when, where, to whom?'—'You have no occasion,' replied the lady, 'to put yourself into this violent agitation; I dare say I may be easily unmarried again.'

'Confusion!' rejoined Rodophil; 'what trifling is here! Married, and may be easily unmarried again! For Heaven's sake, Madam, explain the meaning of all this, if there be really any meaning in what you say!'

'Have a little patience,' replied she; 'I will tell you every thing. You must know, that Captain La Val persuaded me one day to go with him to May-Fair Chapel, where a man in a black coat read something over to us; it was the marriage-ceremony, I think: for my part, I did nothing but laugh all the time, yet the creature has ever since taken it into his head to imagine I am his wife.'

'Very likely, indeed,' said Rodophil scornfully: 'and what followed?'—

'Nay,

'Nay, what signifies what followed?' cried she: 'the business is to get this foolish marriage dissolved; which I think may easily be done, especially as there were no witnesses, and we now heartily hate one another.'—'Were these always your sentiments?' demanded Rodophil. 'No,' answered she; 'he pretended a furious passion for me, and I liked him well enough; but he is now as indifferent as most other husbands, and I have never been able to endure him since I came acquainted with you: therefore, my dear Rodophil, help me to get quite rid of him.'

'As how, pray?' said he. 'Oh, I have contrived the means,' answered she—'you must send him a challenge; I know he does not love fighting, though he has made two campaigns, and I believe will be glad to relinquish me rather than come to tilt-work: but if he should venture, you will certainly have the better; for I am told he does not understand the sword.'

'I am highly obliged to you, Madam,' replied he, with the extremest disdain, 'for the undertaking you would engage me in; but really it is not my humour to risque my own throat, or attempt cutting that of another man, in the hope of becoming master of his property: and I am so far from envying the good fortune of my rival, that I wish him all the happiness a man can enjoy with a lady of your consummate virtue and discretion.'

'Ungrateful creature!' cried she, bursting into tears, 'is this the love you have professed for me, or a recompense for the proofs you have received of mine?'—'Oh, Madam,' replied he, still more contemptuously, 'you will find I know how to set a just value on such love as yours; the landau that brought us is not yet returned, and is at your service, to conduct you to your husband's arms, or wherever you think proper.'

On this he called him Monster, Villain, and all the names that rage and disappointment could suggest; but he, little regarding what she said, rung the bell for a servant, and ordered the landau should be immediately brought. Our fair eye-droppers thought this a proper cue for entrance, and came forth from their concealment; 'Sister,' said

Rodophil, 'I leave you to take care of this lady, who seems a little disordered; I am going out.'

Sophia, after her brother had left the room, began to say some civil things, in order to moderate the distraction she appeared in: but she answered not a word; and as soon as the landau was at the gate, flung herself into it without any farther ceremony. But what effect her behaviour had on the minds of those she left behind, the reader will presently discover.

### CHAP. III.

IS OF STILL MORE IMPORTANCE  
THAN THE FORMER.

**T**HOUGH Rodophil, as Sophia had told Jenny, was not possessed of any real passion for this capricious lady, and had been infligated merely by the prospect of advantage to make his addresses to her; yet was he so much chagrined at being exposed, by her folly, to the ridicule of the neighbourhood, from the thought it could not be kept a secret, that he went directly to the house of an intimate friend, and would not be prevailed upon to return to his own for a considerable time.

As for the two young ladies, the consternation they were in at what they had seen and heard, is not to be described: nothing but the conviction of their own senses could have made either of them believe it possible, that a person, such as had just now left them, could have acted in the manner she had done.

The discourse they had together, after she was gone, was suitable to the occasion: 'I know,' said Sophia, 'that there are some men who have so much vanity and assurance, that they will take no denial, nor quit their pretensions without some extraordinary method be taken to compel them to it; but I can assure you this was not the case with my brother. I have very good reasons to believe she made him the first advances; and am certain that, if she did not, she at least highly encouraged his addresses.'

'That you may not think,' continued she, 'that I am excited to speak in this manner through the natural affection to my brother, I will shew you a letter, which he happening to

B

drop,

' drop, I took up, and never returned;  
' because I was unwilling to let him  
' know I had seen it.'

In speaking these words, she took a paper out of her pocket, and put it into Jenny's hands; which the young lady hastily opening, found the contents as follow.

TO \*\*\*\*\* ESQ.

' I Have had a thousand lovers, but  
' never found one so easily repul-  
' sed: if you had loved me with half  
' that violent passion you pretended,  
' you would have remembered what the  
' poet makes Jupiter say of our sex—

' I gave them but one tongue to form denials,  
' And two fine eyes to yield a kind compli-  
' "ance."

' Mine must have been very unintel-  
' ligible, indeed, if they did not inform  
' you that my heart was far from being  
' displeased at the fine things you said  
' to me: were you then to take it for  
' granted that I did not like you, be-  
' cause I told you so, and gallop im-  
' mediately out of town, as if absolute-  
' ly despairing ever to obtain me?  
' Faint-hearted creature! I pity your  
' want of spirit; a man of courage  
' would have been more enflamed by  
' resistance, and never have given over  
' till he had gained his point,

' I know this is going a great length,  
' and may encourage you to boldnesses  
' which, perhaps, I should not be very  
' ready to forgive: but I have said it,  
' and do not think it worth while to  
' spoil another piece of paper with  
' writing to you in a different manner;  
' so you must put what construction you  
' please upon words. If you venture  
' to town again upon the receipt of  
' this, it is possible you will have no  
' reason to repent your journey; but I  
' promise nothing farther, than that it  
' depends entirely on yourself to con-  
' tinue in the good graces of

\* \* \* \* \*

' P. S. I have made an appointment  
' with some ladies to go to Vaux-  
' hall the day after to-morrow:  
' they will have all their pretty  
' fellows with them; and, if you  
' come time enough, I should chuse

' rather that you should squire me  
' thither than any other man of  
' my acquaintance. Adieu!

' Upon this summons,' said Sophia,  
' my brother went directly to London;  
' and you may suppose met with no un-  
' kind reception from the lady, by  
' what you have been witness of.'

' Yes, my dear,' cried Jenny, ' I  
' have indeed been witness of much  
' more than I could have ever imagined  
' in a woman, much less in any one  
' who pretends to the least share of ho-  
' nour or reputation.'

This adventure, it is certain, had made a very extraordinary impression on the mind of that young beauty; she had a strong discernment, and an uncommon quickness of apprehension; she had easily discovered, that the lady they were speaking of, though vain and affected to an excess, wanted not wit, but judgment; and that the errors of her conduct, in regard to La Val and Rodophil, were not owing so much to her folly, as to the inconsistency of her nature.

' Who can be assured,' said she with-  
in herself, ' till experience convinces  
them, that they themselves may not  
be guilty of the same irregularity of  
humour, though their prudence and  
the fears of censure may keep them  
from exposing the weakness of their  
resolution? We all of us are liable  
to change in trifling matters, and fre-  
quently despise to-morrow what we  
liked to-day: I see no reason, there-  
fore, that we have to depend on our  
own hearts in things of the greatest  
importance.'

Jenny could not, in spite of the gaiety of her temper, forbear falling into little reveries of this nature, whenever she considered herself as entering into a state from which there is no relief but the grave; or, what to a woman of any delicacy is yet worse, a divorcement.

She could not keep herself from uttering some part of her thoughts on this subject to Sophia. ' Inconsistency,' replied she, ' is certainly a very great weakness; yet what security can be given by the wisest of us all, that we never shall be guilty of it? It is an involuntary error; the effect of a sudden object that, when we least think of it, strikes upon the senses, con-  
' founds

'founds the understanding, and leads the inclination astray, before people well know what they are doing.'

'Since it is so,' said Jenny, 'and may as well happen after marriage as before, I think it is best not to marry at all, as the consequences of such an accident would be terrible indeed.'— 'Then you would chuse to avoid a certain good,' cried Sophia, laughing, 'rather than run the risque of falling into an uncertain evil? But I do not regard what you say on this head: we may talk as we will; but when it comes to the point, we shall do just as nature prompts.'

Thus did the odd event of Rodophil's courtship furnish out both serious and pleasant matter of conversation for these two ladies while they continued together: but Jenny, who had not intended her visit should be long, took her leave on the third day, and returned to London; where a second discovery fell in her way, which greatly corroborated those sentiments which the first had begun to inspire her with.

There are few milliners of more reputation in their way among the beau monde than Mrs. Frill. Jenny had been her customer ever since she had left her boarding-school; and happening now to go to her shop for some things she wanted, found her behind the counter very busy, and bustling among her shelves and band-boxes; a thing very extraordinary with her, as she was pretty far advanced in years, was infirm, and had always kept an extremely adroit shop-maid, who was used to take the trouble of the most part of the business off her hands.

'Bless me!' cried Jenny, 'it is a kind of prodigy to see you below stairs, especially at this time in the morning. Pray, where is Mrs. Beckey, that you are obliged to fatigue yourself in this manner?'

'Ah, Miss Jessamy!' replied she, puffing and blowing like a pair of bellows that had lost it's wind, 'Beckey has played the fool with herself; she has left me, and is gone into keeping.'— 'Into keeping!' cried Jenny; 'I should never have suspected it: I thought Mrs. Beckey had been defended by the plainness of her person, as well as by her virtue, from all attacks of that nature. But pray, who is the man?'— 'I was of your

'opinion,' said Mrs. Frill; 'but Sir J— \*\*\* has found charms in her, and she in him; he has taken fine lodgings for her, and they are almost always together.'

She had no sooner mentioned the name of Sir J— \*\*\*, than Jenny burst into exclamations; she knew very well that he had loved, to the most romantic height, the lady who was now his wife; that he had not been married to her more months than it had cost him years of courtship to obtain her; that she was a person whose beauty, accomplishments, virtue, and good-nature, rendered her every way deserving of all the affection he had professed for her; and now to hear he had so early falsified his vows, seemed a thing so strange, so incredible, that she could scarce believe her ears, or that Mrs. Frill was not mistaken in what she said. She asked her over and over if she was sure the thing was true, and desired her to repeat all the particulars she knew concerning this surprizing affair; to which the other complied in these terms.

'You must know, Madam,' said she, 'that I had a very curious French capuchin; never was there a greater beauty of it's kind; it was wrought by a nun of quality, to be disposed of for the benefit of the poor; scarce a flower that grows but was represented in their proper colours, intermixed with gold and silver. I shewed it to such of my customers as I thought most likely to be the purchasers: they all admired it, but did not care to give the price, though nothing was ever so cheap; for I asked no more than fifty guineas; but the truth is, most of them had lost a great deal of their money at play; and you know, Madam, that makes ill for us tradespeople. I had kept it above a week; and, fearing it would be blowed upon, proposed a raffle, and got ten ladies to subscribe five guineas a-piece; but when the day came appointed to decide to whose lot the prize should fall, one of them sent me word she had changed her mind, and could not come.'

'This a little vexed me,' continued she; 'but, rather than lose all, I was determined to make up the deficiency myself, when luckily this very Sir J— \*\*\* stepped in. As he was a married man, I ventured to ask him



“ if he would not try his fortune for a present to his lady. He readily agreed; and, in fine, won it. I offered to send it home; but he told me I need not give myself that trouble, for his man should call for it the next day, which Beckey told me he did; but you will find, by the sequel, that he intended no such thing.

“ About a week after, as near as I can remember, went the on, ‘ this audacious young huffey pretended to go on a visit to a relation, but came not home the whole night, which very much surprized me; and, as she never had been guilty of the like before, made me fear some accident had befallen her; but the next morning I received a letter from her, which I will read to you.

“ TO MRS. FRILL.

“ MADAM,  
“ I Beg your pardon for quitting your service in so clandestine a manner; but I had an offer which I did not think proper to refuse: I have a quarter’s wages in your hands; and that, I hope, will make amends for my going without warning. Pray, be so good to send my box by the bearer. I am, Madam, your humble servant to command,

“ REBECCA TRIP.”

“ I was very much amazed, as you may easily believe,” resumed she, “ at the impertinence of the creature in writing to me in this manner; however, I had presence of mind enough to ask the porter from whence he brought the letter; and he readily told me from one Madam Trip, in South Audley Street; on which I presently guessed her situation, though not the person who had occasioned this change in it.

“ But I continued not long in suspense,” pursued she; “ one of the ladies who had been so unfortunate to lose her five pieces at the raffle, told me she had met her in the Mall, dressed in a very rich brocade short facque and petticoat, and that very capuchin Sir J— \*\*\* had won; and I soon after heard, by one who is acquainted with the person at whose

“ house she lodges, that she passes there for a relation of that gentleman’s, and that he visits her every day.”

Mrs. Frill had just finished this little narrative, when a lady came into her shop: after the usual compliment — ‘ I have been just giving,’ said Mrs. Frill to her, ‘ this young lady an account of the change of Beckey’s circumstances; and, I assure your ladyship, have had much ado to make her believe the veracity of it.’ — ‘ I am sensible,’ replied Jenny, ‘ that things of this nature too frequently happen; but I confess, that to find a man, who loved to that degree Sir J— \*\*\* has done, should act in such a manner, is very astonishing.’

“ For my part,” said the lady, ‘ I see nothing astonishing in it, except his want of taste; for as to his keeping a mistress, it could not be expected to be otherwise; that woman is a fool who thinks to keep a pretty fellow to herself in a town like this: it is true, his wife is a very fine woman; but he has had her, and variety has charms for us all.’

“ In some things it may, Madam,” answered Jenny; ‘ yet I cannot help thinking that inconstancy, either in man or woman, argues a very weak mind.’ — ‘ Lord, Miss, you talk like one that knows nothing of the world,’ cried the other; ‘ I have been married these three years, and am wise by experience; it is not in nature for two persons always to be pleasing to each other: but if you will not take my word for it, I hope you will believe Cowley, who was certainly as great a judge of love as even Ovid himself.

“ The world’s a scene of changes, and to be Constant in nature were inconstancy;  
“ For ’twere to break the laws herself has made;

“ Our substances themselves do fleet and fade:  
“ The most fix’d being still does move and fly,  
“ Swift as the wings of Time, ’tis measur’d by.

“ To imagine, then, that love should never cease,

“ (Love is but the ornament of these)

“ Were quite as senseless as to wonder why  
“ Beauty and colour stay not when we die.”

Not this authority, nor all the arguments the lady could bring, who possibly



possibly was herself a proof of what she urged, could make Jenny recede from her opinion, or give up the point: the dispute between them continued till other company coming in, put an end to it.

Though, by the whole deportment of Jenny, there seemed to be but little share of earth in her composition, yet had she her serious moments: what she had seen at the house of Rodophil, and been told of at Mrs. Frill's, came often into her mind; and she began to fear, from these two instances, that inconsistency was a frailty to which human nature was but too liable; and the reflections she made upon it had no small influence on her future conduct towards Jemmy; to whom it is now high time we should return.

#### CHAP. IV.

WILL PROBABLY OCCASION VARIOUS CONJECTURES ON WHAT IS TO COME.

A Very small share of experience and observation may serve to inform us, that there is no passion of the soul which more easily wears off than that of grief for the death of friends; and, indeed, it is highly reasonable that it should be so. Religion obliges us to a perfect resignation to the decrees of Providence; philosophy teaches us that it is weak, and unbecoming the dignity of our species, to bewail woes which, in their very nature, are irredeemable; and the laws of society forbid us to indulge any emotions that might enervate our abilities, and render us less useful to the community.

Whether any arguments, drawn from the above considerations, could claim a part in enabling Jemmy to recover his former vivacity, I will not take upon me to determine; but certain it is, that, in a very short time, nothing of the mourner, except the habit, was to be seen about him.

It would have been somewhat strange, indeed, if a gentleman, not yet quite one-and-twenty, possessed of a very plentiful estate, and master of accomplishments to recommend him to the best company, should have had any leisure for melancholy reflections in a town like London, so abounding with

every thing that can entertain and raise pleasing sensations in a youthful heart.

In the midst of all the various amusements he gave into, his dear Jenny, however, was not forgot; scarce a day passed over without his visiting her once, if not more, in some one part of it: they behaved to each other in the same manner they had always been accustomed to do; quite open and free, without the least breach of innocence or modesty; kind, without any mixture of dissimulation; and obliging, without taking any pains to be so.

Scarce are there any where to be found two persons whose dispositions so exactly tallied: both of them were gay and volatile almost to an excess; both loved the pleasures of the town, yet never pursued them so far as to transgress the bounds of strict virtue in the one, nor honour in the other. Both had an affluence of wit, and a great talent for ridicule; and both had too much good-nature and generosity to extend that propensity to the prejudice of any one: in short, they were what the poet says—

‘ In all so much alike, each heart  
‘ Seem’d but the other’s counter-part.’

To the foregoing character of them might also have been added, that neither of them were possessed of any strong passions; and, though the affection they had for each other was truly tender and sincere, yet neither of them felt those impatiences, those anxieties, those transporting hopes, those distracting fears, those causeless jealousies, or any of those thousand restless sensations, that usually perplex a mind devoted to an amorous flame: they were happy when they met, but not uneasy when they parted. He was not in the least alarmed on finding she was frequently visited by some of the finest gentlemen in town; nor was she at all disconcerted when she was told that he was well-received by ladies of the most distinguished characters.

I am well aware that many of my readers will be apt to say, people who could think and act in the manner I have described, either had no charms for each other, or seemed incapable of loving at all: and I am ready to confess that, according to the received notions of love, there was a seeming inconsistency in this conduct; and it had  
more

more the appearance of a cold indifference than the warm glow of mutual inclinations.

Yet that they did love each other is most certain, as will hereafter be demonstrated by proofs much more unquestionable than all those extravagances: those raging flights, commonly looked upon as infallible tokens of the passion; but which, how fierce soever the fires they spring from may burn for a while, we see frequently extinguish of themselves, and leave nothing but the smoke behind.

All the formalities of a first and second mourning for the dead being over, every one now expected they should soon see the completion of a marriage they knew had been so long intended: Jemmy also had some thoughts of it himself, and began to consider on such things as were proper to be done previous to the solemnity.

On looking over his father's papers, he had found marriage-articles between him and Jenny, with a deed of settlement on her by way of dower, which the old gentleman had caused to be drawn up some time before his death: these writings he now put into his pocket, and carried them to her, in order for her approbation.

'What are these?' cried she, when he presented her with the packet. 'They are what concerns you as nearly as myself,' replied he; 'therefore I would have you examine the contents at some leisure hour, and let me know if you think there is any thing in them that requires alteration or amendment.'

'They ought to be things of great consequence, indeed, by their bulk,' said she smiling, and beginning to unfold the parchment. 'You know,' returned he, with the same gay air, 'for what we are designed by both our fathers; and I suppose mine, as being your guardian also, thought himself the most proper person to decide the terms on which we should come together.'

'I have no reason,' answered she, 'to suspect either his justice or goodwill towards me: however, I will take the first opportunity of seeing what he has done for me on this score.' In speaking this she locked the writing he had brought in an escritoire that was placed just behind

her; then turning hastily to him—

'But, my dear Jemmy,' continued she, 'you must know I have promised some company to go to Ranelagh; and, I believe, they are already beginning to expect me.'—'It happens very luckily,' said he; 'for there are three or four young fellows of us who have promised to give some ladies the musick on the River to-night; and I could not have staid above three minutes longer with you; for they depend upon me to see the hands all ready. So, my dear Jenny, I will not detain you. Farewel!'—'Farewel, Jemmy!' rejoined she: and with these words both ran down stairs together; he went into one chair, and she into another, to fulfil their several engagements.

The next day they saw each other again, as usual. After some little chit-chat on ordinary affairs, he asked her if she had found time to look over the writings he had brought the day before. 'Yes,' answered she; 'I breakfasted on them this morning.'—'Well,' cried he, 'what objections have you to make?'—'None at all,' replied she: 'I rather think your father has made a better provision for me than my own would have desired or expected.'—'Then, I suppose, there is nothing left for us to do,' said he, 'but sign and seal, and go together before a parson?'—'Some people may say so,' replied she; 'but, for my part, I am of a quite different opinion; and think there is a great deal for us both to do before we come to the words—"To have and to hold."'

'Easily comprehend what you would be at,' resumed he, laughing: 'new cloaths for ourselves and servants, some addition to the equipage; a more fashionable chariot, another pair of horses; perhaps——' 'Hold! hold!' cried she, interrupting him; 'I have no such stuff in my thoughts, I do assure you: what I mean is infinitely more material than all you have mentioned; and that is, the being certain within ourselves of never repenting the engagements we are about to enter into.'

'Repenting!' said he; 'there is no danger of that, I believe: I will promise you to make as good a husband as I can; and I am sure you will make

'make a good wife.'—'That is all as chance directs,' answered she: 'we may think perfectly well at one time, and act very ill at another. In fine, my dear Jemmy,' continued she, 'I think we ought to know a little more of the world, and of ourselves, before we enter into serious matrimony.'

'Why, faith, Jenny,' answered he, 'I cannot help saying but that you are in the right: I should not much like, methinks, to be quite so soon the father of a family.'—'And I should hate to be called Mamma,' rejoined she, 'before I arrived at an age to write myself Woman.'

'I wonder,' pursued she, 'how people can resolve to cut themselves off from all the pleasures of life, just as they are beginning to have a relish for them. How should I regret being confined at home by domestick affairs, while others of my sex and age were flaunting in the Mall, or making one at the rout of a woman of quality? And how it would mortify you to hear the ladies cry disdainfully—'Jemmy Jessamy is a very pretty fellow; but he is married?' and then tofs up their heads; and, in contempt of you, turn the *doux yeux* on the next man in company, though, perhaps, he happens to be one of the most insignificant fops the follies of the times ever fashioned, and without any one merit to recommend him, but merely his having no wife?'

Jenny, who had always somewhat amiably striking in her eyes and tone of voice, appeared at this instant so particularly brilliant, that Jemmy could not forbear catching her in his arms with the utmost rapture, crying at the same time—'I shall little regard the contempt of all the women in the world, while blest with the kindness of my dear, dear Jenny.'

'And I think too,' replied she, returning his embrace, and looking on him with a most enchanting softness, 'that I could forego all other joys of life for those of my dear Jemmy's love: yet, after all,' continued she, 'we may both of us be deceived in our own hearts. I have heard the wise say, that nothing is so difficult to acquire as the true knowledge of ourselves; and who can tell what time and accidents may produce?'

Here Jemmy was beginning to make

the most fervent protestations, that it was not in the power of Fate itself to occasion the least alteration in his present sentiments on her account; and Jenny was half persuaded, by what she felt in her own breast, that an affection, grounded and habitual as theirs had been, was incapable of varying on either side; so that if this tender conversation had continued but a very little longer, it is highly probable they had agreed to put the finishing stroke to the work their parents had laboured for, by an immediate marriage.

Of this, however, there can be no positive assurance, as it was broke off by some company coming in; but whether fortunately or unfortunately for the lovers this interruption happened in so critical a moment, the reader, if he has patience to wait, will, in the sequel of this history, be informed.

## CHAP. V.

IS SOMEWHAT MORE EXPLICIT  
THAN THE FORMER.

THE persons who had surprised our lovers in the midst of the most interesting discourse they ever yet had entertained each other with, were two young ladies of Jenny's intimate acquaintance: they had been driven out of the Park by a shower of rain, and could not go home without calling on her, to communicate something which they thought would be equally diverting to her as it had been to themselves.

On seeing Jemmy with her—'We have caught you alone together,' said one of them; 'and it is happy for you that you have been so, as nothing but the pleasure of each other's company could have atoned for what you have lost by not being in the Mall to-night.'

'As how, pray?' demanded she. 'Lady Fisk,' resumed the other—'Oh, such sneering, such pointing, such an universal titter, as soon as ever she appeared!'—'Lady Fisk!' cried Jemmy, interrupting her: 'I am afraid, Madam, your intelligence is stale; that lady has played over all her tricks long ago; and can do nothing new for us to laugh at.'

'You are quite mistaken, I assure you,' answered she. 'She has now,

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“as Colly says, “outdone all her usual ‘outdoings;’ as you will be obliged to confess when you have heard the story.”

“What!” cried he; “can any thing go beyond her adventure in Covent Garden; where she went in men’s cloaths, picked up a woman of the town, and was severely beaten by her on the discovery of her sex?”

“Or what happened to her at Bartholomew-Fair,” said Jenny; “where being a little too pert with some young apprentices, who had attacked her as a lady of pleasure, a riot ensued; and she was glad to produce her seal with the coat-of-arms upon it, and a letter she had received that day from her lord, to prevent being lodged that night in the watch-house, and carried before the sitting-alderman next morning?”

“Neither of these exploits,” replied the lady that had spoke first, “comes up to what we have to tell you, or gave her half the mortification. It would be the first story in the world, if one could find out the beginning; but the misfortune is, that nothing but the catastrophe as yet is come to light.”

“It is but half a story, then, at best,” said Jemmy, laughing; “but let us hear it, however.”—“I should not have kept you so long in suspense, my dear, if this thing here,” cried she, giving Jemmy a slap on the shoulder with her fan, “had not interrupted me. You must know that, some night last week, Lord and Lady Fisk had a most terrible quarrel: they were just going into bed; she was undressed all but her under-petticoat; what she said or did to provoke him to such wrath, Heaven knows; but he pushed her out of the chamber, drove her down stairs, and in that condition turned her into the street, charging the porter not to open the door on any account.”

“Never was the pride and spirit of any lady so humbled as her’s,” continued this talkative lady: “after finding that knocking and calling loud was to no effect, she condescended to put her mouth close to the key-hole of the door, and beseech the porter, in the most submissive terms, to let her in, though it were no farther than the hall; while her remorseless lord

looked through the window, and insulted her distress, told her it was a fine night, and that it was good for her ladyship’s health, to be thus *af fresco*.”

“After having had his fill of laughter at the miserable plight to which she was reduced, he consented to her admittance: she was no sooner within the doors than she flew up stairs; the dispute between them was renewed with almost the same vehemence as before; he loaded her with a thousand foul names; she, in return, called him Toad, Devil, and every thing her passion could suggest; till, having both railed themselves out of breath, they agreed to go into bed together, in order to finish the quarrel.”

“But now comes the jest,” went she on. “How long a time do you think it took up to compose this difference? Why, no less than three whole days and nights successively; during all which space the chamber-door was never opened but to take in some refreshment, which was placed for them in the next room. This evening was the first of their appearance since their resurrection from the sepulchre of down; my lord received such congratulations upon it as made him glad to quit the Park; but her ladyship, having somewhat more assurance, staid till the change of weather obliged her, as well as ourselves, to take shelter in our chairs.”

“I cannot help confessing,” said Jemmy, “but that there is somewhat pretty extraordinary in this affair; and also that one of them has a greater share of complaisance than I suspected; since it is plain that whichever of them was in fault, the other did equal penance.”

A good deal of pleasantry passed on this adventure, during the whole time the ladies staid, which was not very long; they had here opened their packet, and were upon the wing to carry it to those other of their acquaintance to whom they thought it might be equally new and agreeable.

The ladies had no sooner taken their leave, than Jenny began to animadvert, with more strength of reason than could have been expected from a person of her years, on the ridiculous fact they had been relating. “You hear, Jemmy,” said she, “what unaccountable things



things married people are sometimes guilty of: instead of living together in mutual harmony, it seems, methinks, as if they took a kind of pleasure in making each other wretched; and sure they must do so, or they would not thus expose themselves to the contempt of the world, and become the jest even of their own servants, who must necessarily be the first witnesses of their folly.'

'We ought not, however,' replied he, 'to lay on marriage the blame of all those preposterous things we see acted in that state by persons we have been speaking of; because, long before their entrance into it, both of them behaved in such a manner as to shew they were wholly governed by caprice, and not by that farcical passion which many people are possessed of in a more or less degree, for making a great noise, and being talked of in the world, though it is only for foibles, which one would think they should rather labour to conceal.'

'But I must own,' continued he, 'that I have sometimes been very much surprized at the little concord I have observed between persons whose principles, humours, and behaviour, in general, would make one imagine them equally qualified to give each other perfect happiness.'

'What you say is extremely just,' cried Jenny; 'and I have often had occasion to make the same reflections; it follows, then, that every one, before they engage in marriage, should be well versed in all those things, whatever they are, which constitute the happiness of it: this town is an ample school, and both of us have acquaintance enough in it to learn, from the mistakes of others, how to regulate our own conduct and passions, so as not to be laughed at ourselves for what we laugh at in them.'

'Spoke like a philosophress,' rejoined Jemmy: 'and, upon second thoughts, I agree with you, that as every thing is ready for us, and we can marry when we will, it will be best for us both to stay till we have got some farther lights into the mysterious duties of the conjugal union.'

Jenny, who as yet had not the least inclination to enter into the serious road of matrimony, and would have been equally loth to have appeared too refrac-

tory, if he had insisted on the performance of the covenant made between their fathers, was quite transported to find his sentiments so conformable to her own on this head; but forbore testifying all the satisfaction she felt, for fear of making him call in question the sincerity of her affection for him.

She only told him, that she was certain it would be for their mutual interest to do as he had mentioned; on which he pursued his discourse in these terms.

'But, my dear Jenny,' said he, 'as learning will not come of itself, and we should be equally perfect in the different parts we are to act together hereafter; suppose we should resolve to communicate to each other all the discoveries we are able to make, among the several families that either of us converse with, and also all the confidences which are reposed in us: by this means I shall be acquainted with all the humours of your sex, and you no stranger to those of mine; so that neither of us will be at a loss to bear with the foibles which nature or custom may have implanted in the other. Besides,' added he, 'this is no more than practising before-hand one of those points which, as I take it, is very essential to the happiness of both a husband and a wife.'

'I am charmed with your project,' answered she; 'but then each of us must be sure to preserve an inviolable secrecy in what has been imparted by the other, which is another main essential towards conjugal felicity.'

Jemmy having assured her, that whatever she said to him on this account should be no more than talking to her own heart, they were beginning to divert themselves with the idea of the many whimsical passages they should have to recite to each other, when a footman brought a letter to Jenny, the contents whereof were as follow.

TO MISS JESSAMY.

DEAR CREATURE,

IF this finds you at home and disengaged, I flatter myself you will immediately comply with the request it contains. I am now alone, and in a situation which requires both consolation and advice, neither of which I can hope for more effectually

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'than from the friendship with which you favour me. I would have waited on you, but am prevented by reasons which you will be no stranger to on seeing me. I am, with the most perfect amity, my dear Miss Jessamy, yours, &c.

E. MARLOVE.

P. S. If I am unhappily deprived of your company to-night, I beg you will not fail coming as early as possible in the morning; for I am all impatience to let you into the history of my misfortunes.'

'See here,' said she, giving the letter to Jemmy; 'fortune already is likely to present me with something that may be worth your knowledge: the lady who writes in this manner has honour and virtue; she has been but four months married to a gentleman whom she preferred to a great number of other admirers, and who seems passionately fond of her. You will not wonder that I am in as much haste to hear the occasion of her complaint, as she is to tell it me.'

She then ordered a chair to the door; and, calling for her gloves and caputchin, hurried them on while he was reading: the motive which carried her away was too agreeable for him to offer to detain her; and they parted without farther ceremony than a kiss, and 'Good-night.'

#### CHAP. VI.

CONTAINS SOME THINGS WELL WORTHY OF BEING SERIOUSLY ATTENDED TO, BY THOSE ESPECIALLY FOR WHOSE SERVICE THEY ARE CHIEFLY INSERTED.

THOUGH Jenny had not doubted, by the lady's letter, but that something very extraordinary and perplexing had happened to her, yet she was far from expecting to find her in the condition she now did.

That half-distracted fair-one was lying extended on a couch; her hair loose and hanging in wild disorder over her face; her lovely eyes pouring forth tears; all her features distorted with

excess of passion; and every symptom of despair, grief, and rage, about her.

Jenny was quite frightened; and, indeed, who that beheld her in this manner, but must have thought the most terrible accident imaginable had befallen her! 'Ah, my dear Miss Jessamy!' said she, as soon as she saw her enter, 'how charitable is this visit to the most undone, forlorn, and miserable woman, upon earth!'

'Bless me!' cried Jenny, seating herself near her, 'what can have occasioned this sudden change in your late happy condition?'—'Oh! I will tell you all,' replied the other: 'but when you shall hear how I have been treated by my ungrateful, my perfidious husband, you will forswear marriage, and curse the whole race of false, dissembling men!'

'I sent for you,' continued she, 'to make you the confidante of my resentment, as you have always been of my love; for this unworthy man, who, from my slave, is now become my tyrant, instead of studying how to please me, has the insolence to attempt making me subservient to his will, and to contradict me even in things where every woman has a right to rule. Could you ever have believed it, my dear Miss Jessamy?' went she on: 'the vain creature imagines I have love enough for him to be satisfied with whatever he does.'

'I thought, indeed,' said Jenny, 'that both of you had love enough to be satisfied with what the other did. But, pray, what may be the subject of the present dispute between you?'—'Oh! such a gross affront upon my understanding, my humour, my every thing that is dear to woman-kind,' replied Mrs. Marlove. 'But of what nature?' again demanded her impatient friend.

It was in vain she repeated the question over for several times successively; Mrs. Marlove was too much overcome by her passion to be able to give any direct account of the occasion; and all that could be gathered from her incoherent exclamations was, that a favourite servant of Mr. Marlove had quarrelled with her waiting-maid; that she had insisted on the man's being turned away; and he, as strenuously, that she should part with her maid; that

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very high words had rose on this occasion; that he had endeavoured to exert the authority of a husband, and she to maintain the respect and complaisance due to a wife; and that, after having absolutely refused to do as she desired, he had flung out of the house in very great discontent.

She was but just beginning to enter somewhat farther into the merits of the cause, when a servant put his head between the door, and told Mrs. Marlove that the cloth was laid for supper, and that his master was come home. 'Well, and what of that?' cried she hastily. 'Nothing, Madam,' said the man; 'only my master desires that your ladyship and the young lady will be pleased to walk down.'—'Tell him,' replied she, with the utmost disdain in her voice and countenance, 'that I am not pleased to do any thing that he desires; and that I will neither eat nor sleep with him while he keeps that fellow Jonathan in the house.'

On this he said no more, but withdrew; and Mr. Marlove came up in a moment after: his looks expressed the utmost discontent; he saluted Jenny, however, with respect; and then, turning to his wife—'I am surprized, my dear,' cried he, 'that you should expose yourself in this manner: family disputes ought to be discussed in private; it is impertinent to trouble our friends with them, and ridiculous to make our servants the witnesses of them. For Heaven's sake, therefore, consider a little—'

'I shall consider nothing,' said she, interrupting him, 'but your unkindness and ingratitude. What!' pursued she, with vehemence, 'to refuse me in so poor a trifle as the dismissal of a servant!'

'Trifles, Madam,' answered he very gravely, 'when insisted on too peremptorily, become things of consequence: besides, you have often heard me say this man lived with my father; that when I went abroad, he gave him to me as the choicest present he could make; that he attended me in my travels through the greatest part of Europe; and that I have experienced his love and fidelity to me in a thousand instances; it would therefore be highly unjust and ungenerous in me to turn him off; and I can look upon it as no less unreasonable in you to

request it merely on the idle complaints and tittle-tattle of a chambermaid.'

'That chambermaid,' said she, in the most haughty tone, 'while she belongs to me, is at least upon a level with your valet; though, in spite to me, I suppose you have now raised him to your house-steward.'

Mr. Marlove grew very red at these words, and was about to have made some reply, which perhaps might have heightened the quarrel, when the person who had been the occasion of it entered the room.

He was a grave, well-looking man, and had a certain open honesty in his countenance, which answered to the character given of him by his master.

'Sir,' said he to Mr. Marlove, bowing in the most respectful manner, 'I have never known in my whole life so real a grief as I now feel, finding myself the unhappy cause of any disagreement between your honour and my lady; I therefore most humbly beseech you will be pleased to permit me to quit the house directly; for it is not fit your honour's peace of mind should suffer any disturbance, or my lady the least uneasiness, even for a moment, on so worthless a subject as myself.'

'How, Jonathan!' demanded Mr. Marlove; 'are you in such haste to leave my service, that you would go before I am provided with a proper person to supply your place?'—'Oh! there is no reason for detaining him on that account,' cried Mrs. Marlove: 'my Abigail has a brother just now come out of place; by the character I have heard of him he will be extremely fit for you; and we can have him at a minute's warning.'

'It is very likely,' replied he: then, having paused a little on what his wife had said—'Well, Jonathan,' pursued he, 'we will talk farther on this matter to-morrow; but leave the room, and bid somebody send Abigail hither.' Mrs. Marlove exulted within herself on hearing him speak in this manner; and, pulling Jenny by the sleeve, 'My dear,' cried she to her in a low voice, 'I shall conquer this domineering husband at last.'

Abigail immediately obeying the summons that had been sent for her—'Well, Abigail,' said Mr. Marlove,

with half a smile, which she took for an indication of his being in great good-humour with her; but, as it afterwards proved, was no more than a sarcastick sneer; 'I am told you have a brother perfectly qualified for my service?'

'Yes, please your honour,' answered she, simpering; 'and, though I say it, as clever a fellow as ever stepped in shoe-leather; he can comb a wig to charm, and buckle too, upon occasion; he does every thing in taste, I assure your honour: besides, he is a spruce young man, and a thousand times fitter to attend your honour than the old formal creature you have now.'

'It may be so,' said Mr. Marlove; 'but I have no business for him; nor have you any in my house longer than this night; therefore pack up your trumpery, and be gone to-morrow morning.' She was opening her mouth to speak; but he prevented her by saying, in a stern and resolute voice—'No repartees, minx! I will have no incendiaries in my family! Out of my sight this moment, and come into it no more!'

Though scarce any creature was ever endowed with a greater share of confidence than this wench, yet was she now so terrified at the looks of her master, that she durst not utter a single syllable while in his presence; and contented herself with muttering, all the way she went down stairs, what she had not courage to say loud enough to be heard.

But it is altogether impossible to describe the rage Mrs. Marlove was in at this last proof of her husband's resolution; which was the more insupportable to her, as she had, not above a moment or two before, flattered herself with a belief that he was inclinable to conform to her desires.

She would have spoke; but excess of passion choked the passage of her words: she flew into her chamber, and threw herself upon the bed; where she certainly would have fallen into a fit, if Jenny, who had immediately followed her, had not cut the lacings of her stays in order to give her air.

On this she began to revive a little; and Abigail that instant coming up, gave her a glass of cold water, which perfected the cure. The first use she made of her recovered breath was to inveigh against the injustice, as she termed

it, of her husband. Jenny was endeavouring to persuade her to more moderation, but was interrupted in the midst of what she was saying by Abigail.

'Nay, Madam,' cried that malapert huffey, 'for that matter, my lady has as much reason to be vexed as I! For my part, I do not know what my master means by using me as he has done; he gives himself strange airs, methinks! I am sure it is not like a gentleman to shew so little respect for a servant!'

These saucy reflections brought Mrs. Marlove more to herself than all the assistance that had been given her: angry as she was with her husband, she could not bear to hear him mentioned, by such a creature, in the manner she now did. 'Airs!' cried she, 'Respect! Was ever any thing so ridiculously impudent!—Sure, wench, thou hast forgot that the gentleman thou speakest so contemptuously of is my husband!'

'No, Madam!' answered she, bridling up her head; 'I forgot nothing that I ought to remember: and I must say again, that it does not become him to treat either you or me so unhand-some as he has done.'—'What, does the odious thing pretend to make comparisons!' cried Mrs. Marlove; and, provoked beyond all patience at the insolence of her deportment, snatched a powder-box from off the dressing-table, and threw it at her head; saying, at the same time—'Be gone this instant! I shall keep no such bold-face about me!'

'Bold-face, Madam!' returned the audacious creature. 'Very pretty, truly! But do not think I shall beg to stay: there are other places to be had; and I do not value—' She would have ran farther on in the same strain, if the sudden appearance of her master had not stopped her mouth, and made her think proper to go out of the room.

Mr. Marlove, being heartily ashamed that Jenny had been witness of this foolish affair, resolved to salve it up, if possible, before she went away; and, to that end, came into his wife's chamber; chusing rather to recede a little from what he thought his just prerogative as a husband, than suffer her to depart with the notion of his having asserted it too far.



As he came into the room at one door, Abigail was going out at the other: he easily perceived, by her countenance, that some *brûlée* had happened between her and her lady; which taking for a good omen of succeeding in his design, he approached Mrs. Marlove; and, with an air perfectly *degagée* and unembarrassed—‘I hope, my dear,’ said he, ‘you are by this time convinced that your maid had a farther view in quarrelling with Jonathan than she pretended; and, also, how little she deserves you should espouse her cause?’

‘She has been impertinent, indeed,’ answered she; ‘but it is no wonder that she is so! When a woman is ill-treated by her husband, she can expect no other than to be so by her servant also; and it is to you, to you alone, that I either have been, or shall hereafter be, deprived of the respect due to me from our domesticks.’

‘Accuse me not,’ said he, ‘of any thing so contrary to my nature: your merits, and my just sense of them, will always engage me to behave towards you, both in publick and in private, with all the complaisance and tenderness that man can pay, or woman can expect.’

‘Then you would not contradict me in trifles?’ cried she, a little softened. ‘I will contradict you in nothing,’ said he, ‘that my reason will permit me to grant, or your own, on mature deliberation, induce you to desire. As to the present dispute between us,’ continued he, ‘I only beg you will defer any farther speech of it till to-morrow; and if, in that time, you do not find cause to alter your opinion, I shall endeavour to accede to yours.’

‘A very fair proposal indeed, Sir!’ said Jenny, smiling: ‘and, my dear Mrs. Marlove, if you do not accept it, I shall lay the whole blame of all the disagreements that may hereafter happen between you entirely on your ill-nature.’

‘That is a very severe inference,’ replied she: ‘however, to oblige you, I shall comply with Mr. Marlove’s request.—‘I am glad to obtain it at any rate,’ cried he; and I hope we may now go down to supper, which has waited for us this half-hour.’

Mrs. Marlove said she did not care for eating, and desired they would excuse her absence; but, by the entreaties of her husband, and some little pleasantries Jenny made use of on this occasion, she was at last prevailed upon; and they all went down together into the parlour.

Jenny kept an observant eye over both the husband and the wife all the time they were at table; and, as she was happy in a penetration which few of her sex, especially at her years, can boast of, easily perceived that, though he behaved with a politeness beyond what could have been expected after what had passed, and she seemed to have abated a great part of her late haughtiness and resentment, yet neither of them were sincerely inclined to submit to the will of the other in any thing which was not entirely agreeable to their own.

The apologies they made to her, however, on the account of the unpleasing entertainment she had met with in this visit, with her obliging answers to them in return, and repeated good wishes for their future peace, engrossed a great part of their conversation during the whole time she staid.

But the night being pretty far advanced, when supper was ended she took her leave of the half-reconciled pair, and went home full of those reflections which, on the scene she had been witness of, must naturally have occurred even to a person of a much less considerative disposition.

## CHAP. VII.

AFFORDS FRESH MATTER FOR EDIFICATION TO THOSE WHO STAND IN NEED OF IT, AS WELL AS ENTERTAINMENT TO SUCH WHO DO NOT.

JENNY had an infinity of good-nature, and was extremely troubled at the disagreement she had seen between two persons whom she thought had been entirely happy in being united to each other: the more she ruminated on the behaviour of Mrs. Marlove, the more she found in it to condemn; but then she was also equally surprized to find so great a change in that of her husband. She had frequently been in their

their company while in their days of courtship; she had seen him humour all the little whims and caprices which the vanity of flattered beauty had made her guilty of; she had heard him praise even her very foibles, and seem charmed with what the rest of the world most blamed her for.

'Good God!' cried she to herself, 'how strange a reverse does marriage bring! Who that sees a man a husband would ever think he had been a lover? Till she was a wife, he would not have presumed to argue with her on any point she took upon her to assert; he would not then have opposed his reason to any folly she committed. It is true, she has insisted on a thing which he must have been both ungenerous and weak to have complied with; yet would he once not have dared to have contradicted her in much greater matters. If she is proud, imperious, and vain, it is on his own too great obsequiousness he ought to lay the blame. Oh! why will men endeavour to persuade us we are goddesses, only to create themselves the pains of convincing us afterwards that we are but mortals!

'Yet, after all,' said she again, 'we know that the extravagant encomiums so lavishly bestowed upon us before marriage, are mere words of course; the homage, the submissions, paid us by the lover, all form and empty show: and, as they are put in practice only to soothe our vanity, ought not to deceive our understandings so far as to make us imagine we either deserve, or have a right to expect, the continuance of them, when the motive that induced them is no more. Marriage, as it removes all coyness and reserve in the woman, so it destroys all suspense in the man: he is then in possession of his wishes, has done with hopes and fears; and solicitations, of course, must also cease.

'Stripped, therefore, of that imaginary authority with which we once flattered ourselves, it is certainly the business of our sex to endeavour, by the most soft and obliging behaviour, to preserve and improve, if possible, the love of him whom it is no longer in our power to awe by a contrary way of acting.

'A too great tenaciousness of our own merits,' pursued she, 'the pride

'of doing whatever we have a mind to, and of imposing the laws of our own will on that of the lover, may be submitted to while we are mistresses, but will never be borne with when we are wives. The men, conscious of that superiority which custom and the matrimonial covenant have given them, never fail to exert it; and opposition on our side is struggling against the stream, and but serves to shew our weakness the more in the vain attempt.

'In my opinion,' went she still on, 'the way to accomplish what we aim at, is not to urge it with too much vehemence in the most reasonable things; much less can we expect success when we insist on such as are in themselves unjustifiable; as in the case of Mrs. Marlove: and I much fear that, if many contests of this nature happen, they will, by degrees, weaken her husband's affection for her; perhaps, in time, utterly destroy it, and render her both unhappy and unpitied.'

In this manner did the sagacious Jenny reason within herself upon the cause in question; and, upon the whole, her judgment entirely acquitted Mr. Marlove of all blame, and gave the verdict against his too-assuming wife, for whose late behaviour she could find no excuse except her extreme youth, and inexperience of the temper of mankind; that lady being but sixteen, which was two years short of the age she had attained herself.

This naturally led her into reflections on the folly of two persons uniting themselves together by the solemnities of marriage, without having well considered the duties of the state they were about to enter into; and confirmed her in the resolution she before had taken of living single, till she was as well assured as human reason could make her, that both herself, and the man who was to be her husband, were equally qualified to render each other truly happy.

She longed, however, to see Jemmy, that she might relate this story to him, and hear his sentiments upon it; but she saw him not all the next day; which a little surprized her, as four-and-twenty hours seldom passed over without his making her one visit, if no more. The accident which now occa-

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toned his absence so much longer than usual, was, indeed, of a pretty particular nature. It was this.

On his coming home the night before, he found a letter that had been left for him, requesting his company at an entertainment to be given the next day, on a very extraordinary occasion, by a gentleman who had been an intimate acquaintance of his father. The invitation was too pressing for him to refuse complying with it; which otherwise he would gladly have done, as he expected not to find any guests there suitable to his age or humour.

He found himself, however, agreeably deceived in the conjecture; and was surprized, on his entrance into a spacious room, to see it filled with a very brilliant company of both sexes; who, being assembled in order to celebrate the most joyous circumstances that can happen in private life, came with a sincere resolution of contributing every thing in the power of each to do honour to the feast prepared for them.

But, not to keep the reader in suspense, the person who made this invitation was a gentleman of birth and fortune: he was married, in his youth, to a lady of celebrated beauty, and every way his equal; but, through a too great love of pleasure on his side, and errors in conduct, though without any breach of virtue, on hers, they had been separated for fourteen years, without the least probability of being reconciled, and, even less, of their ever living together again; as all the interposition of their friends for that purpose, during so long a space of time, had been in vain, and was at last entirely given over. The unhopèd-for event, notwithstanding, came to pass; both parties were alike touched with a just sensibility of their former mistakes, and returned to the embraces of each other with more ardency of affection than that with which they had first met in marriage.

There is certainly nothing which so much demonstrates the sincerity of our reformation as a free confession that we have been in the wrong. 'I was,' said the gentleman, 'in possession of a treasure before I had attained to an age capable of knowing the true value of it: I wore it, as an idiot does a diamond, careless on my arm, and liable to be snatched from me by the first

person who admired it's lustre; but Heaven has preserved it as a blessing for my riper judgment!'

He concluded these words with kissing his lady's hand; and then went on—'I was,' continued he, 'one of those thoughtless wretches which the poet, doubtless, had in his eye when he wrote these lines—

"Fictitious joys allur'd my dazzled senses,  
"And led them in the mystick maze awhile;  
"Beguil'd with empty air, my restless heart  
"Still after some untasted pleasure roam'd;  
"But now the wand'ring fees his peaceful  
"home,  
"And there finds all it vainly fought abroad."

'I cannot suffer you, my dear,' said the lady, with a most becoming smile, 'to take upon yourself the whole blame of that unhappy disagreement which has so long divided us; I also have had my share of guilt, though in a different way from yours: if you have been too gay, I have been too inconsiderate; I have endeavoured not to make home delightful to you; I rather, by a thousand impertinencies and follies, rendered my presence tiresome. I had no idea of the duties of my place, but behaved, when set at the head of a family, as I had done in the nursery, and expected to be humour'd in the same manner.'

Thus did this lately re-united pair equally condemn themselves for the miscarriage of their past conduct; but, while they were speaking, there were not a few in company, of both sexes, who hung down their heads, as conscious of not being wholly free from the errors they heard mentioned.

Jemmy, according to the agreement made between him and Jenny, kept an observant eye on all those who he found were married; and easily perceived, by the looks which one of them, in particular, frequently gave his wife, that they were far from living together in a perfect harmony; though, as he had never seen either of them before, and was wholly unacquainted with their circumstances, conditions, or humours, it was utterly impossible for him to guess from what latent cause the discord he discovered proceeded: but, as it was the husband who seemed most dissatisfied, he concluded, without knowing any thing of the matter, that it must be the wife who was to blame.

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The men are apt to be too partial to one another on this score. In the little time that Jemmy had at present for reflection, these lines of Mr. Dryden came directly into his head—

- ‘ Few know what cares a husband’s peace destroy,  
His real griefs, and his dissembled joy.’

It is altogether impracticable for married people, when so unhappy as to have any real or imagined cause of complaint against each other, to keep the uneasiness they labour under from being visible to the world: however perfect, as to other things, they may be in the art of dissimulation, in this, spite of their utmost endeavours, the sentiments of their hearts will break out; every look, every gesture, betrays the inward pangs they feel; which shews that, of all circumstances of discontent, those of marriage are with the most difficulty sustained.

Jenny was afterwards informed, that the last-mentioned gentleman was one of the many whom it is not in the power of fortune to make happy; that he took a kind of gloomy pleasure in creating to himself ideal ills, and then started at the apparition, which nothing but his own productive fancy had conjured up.

His wife was far from being a beauty; and, as to her person, she had received no more from nature than would just serve to make her pass for not disagreeable: as to her behaviour, it was affable and cheerful, but withal extremely modest; for, as she never affected a too great reserve, so she was equally free from all that had the appearance of levity; but neither the little power her eyes had of captivating, nor the prudence of her carriage, could hinder him from imagining every man that looked upon her had a dishonourable design towards her, and also that she had no disinclination to encourage it.

The whole of the entertainment concluded with a kind of ball; and, as there were more gentlemen than ladies present, the cloudy husband, with two others, retired to one corner of the room, and sat drinking to the healths of those that danced.

It was by mere accident, and without the least design on either side, that Jemmy had for his partner the wife of this suspicious gentleman: but it was

pleasant enough for those who sat near him to observe with what eagerness his eyes pursued each motion in them, which the regulation of the dance required. How his colour changed! how his lips trembled whenever that couple set to each other, or turned hands! It was in vain they filled his glass, and reminded him of the neglected toast, though it was even that of the Royal Family: he thought of nothing but his wife; and seeing her, as he imagined, encouraging the dumb courtship of a person who would invade his rights, he had no longer patience; and the second dance was but just led up when he rose from his seat, and said he must go home, for he had letters of importance to write, which till that moment he had forgot.

This put all in disorder. The gentleman who had made the invitation would fain have persuaded him to stay; but was silenced by the other urging the necessity of his departure: the lady then told him, with a great deal of politeness, that if they must be so unhappy to be deprived of his company, she hoped they should not also lose Mrs. —, who, she supposed, had no letters to write.

‘ No, no, Madam!’ replied he, with very great emotion; ‘ my wife may stay, if she thinks proper; I do not want her, not I!’ She was advancing to take her leave while he was speaking; nor would suffer herself to be prevailed upon, by all the lady could say, to stay behind her husband: but it was easy for any one to see her inclinations took the contrary part, and denied herself the satisfactions such good company afforded, merely through the apprehensions of paying too dearly for it when she came home.

Thus industriously do some people labour to bring on what most they would avoid. If this lady had been possessed of a little more beauty, or, to speak more justly, had she been mistress of a less share of discretion, there were, doubtless, some in company who would have been excited, by the jealousy of her husband, to have attempted that chastity he took such ridiculous measures to preserve.

As it was, however, the behaviour of the husband served to render him contemptible in the eyes of every one; and that of the wife to give her charms, which



which otherwise could not have been remarked in her.

The sarcasms passed on this unhappy, self-tormented gentleman, would be too tedious to repeat; yet were much shorter than they otherwise would have been, if the musick's sprightly sounds had not reminded the company that their feet at that time demanded more employment than their tongues.

It is not to be doubted but that, on going home, every one made their several remarks on what they had seen; but the mind of Jemmy was affected by it in a particular manner, as he considered all that had presented itself to him that day, concurred to make up one great instructive lesson for himself.

#### CHAP. VIII.

WILL OCCASION VARIOUS SPECULATIONS IN THE INQUISITIVE READER.

WHEN our pair of lovers came to relate mutually to each other the foregoing narratives, they were both of opinion, that most of the disagreements that happened in marriage were occasioned chiefly by the parties entering into that state too early and too precipitately.

'If your friends, who now so much rejoice in being reunited,' said Jenny, 'had taken care, before marriage, to attain those qualifications necessary for the performance of the duties required from their respective stations, they would probably never have fallen into those errors which occasioned their separation.'

'Nor would their guest,' continued she, 'be so unreasonably jealous of his wife's conduct, if, previously to his becoming a husband, he had made himself well acquainted with her principles and disposition, and also equally so with his own humour.'

'Nor would Mrs. Marlove,' replied Jemmy, 'if she had at all studied the temper of mankind, been so vain as to expect the same submission from her husband as she received from him while her lover; much less have pretended to contradict him in things where it was not her province to interfere.'

'Right,' resumed she, smiling; 'and

'you may now easily perceive the advantage it is to us not to hurry ourselves into wedlock, as too many people do, without reflecting what they are about, or being any way prepared to make the noose fit easy.'

'Then you persist in your resolution,' rejoined Jemmy, 'of not being married yet-a-while?' To which the answering in the affirmative, and repeating the arguments she had before made use of in her vindication, he readily enough yielded to the justice of her reason; but that he did so was not so much owing to his discretion as to another motive, which, though Jenny was ignorant of, it is not convenient that the reader should be so.

He had, in reality, met with some adventures of late, which had given him too high a relish for the modish pleasures of the town for him to be able to quit them without reluctance, and which, he had too much good sense not to know, it would ill become him to indulge the pursuit of after he should be a married man.

Among the many places of diversion this great and luxurious town abounds with, Lady Racket's assembly has been always looked upon as the most general rendezvous for all the young and gay of both sexes.

Jemmy went frequently thither: and it happening that one evening the company playing very high, he was stripped of all the money and bank-notes he had about him, which amounted to a considerable sum.

A little vexed at his ill-fortune, he was retiring to a window in order to compose himself, when the sound of a female voice, very loud, made him turn his head: he found it proceeded from Liberia, the celebrated Liberia, who, having been playing at another table, had lost all her money, and had not temper to bear it.

'Was ever such cursed luck!' cried she, starting from her seat; 'I have not a single stake left. I have a good mind to make a solemn vow never to touch a card again!'—'Patience, patience, Madam!' said Jemmy, advancing towards her; 'behold in me your brother in affliction: these things will happen, if we depend on the blind goddesses.'—'Have you lost all your money too?' demanded she. 'Every doit, upon my soul!' replied he: 'so

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'neither

'neither of us have any thing to do at present but to observe the fate of others.'

'That would be an insipid way of killing time, indeed,' said she: 'suppose you and I should sit down to piquet, as we are both in the same condition, and can play with nobody else?'—'With all my heart,' answered he; 'and stake honour against honour.'—'Perhaps that would be just nothing at all,' cried she, laughing. 'I dare trust yours,' rejoined he, 'if you will put the same confidence in mine.'

'It would be ungenerous in me,' replied she, 'not to return good opinion with good opinion: but I think it is against the rules of gaming to play merely upon credit; I will set my solitaire against that ring you have upon your finger.'

Jemmy had a great regard for this ring, not so much for the intrinsic value of it, though it was a fine diamond, as because it had been his father's, who had given it to him some little time before he died: a moment's recollection, however, served to make him know what he should do on this occasion; and he replied, with great alertness—'Madam, I heartily agree to your proposition; with this proviso, that, whichever of us is the winner, the stakes may be redeemable; nor would it be fair in me to play with you on any other terms, as your solitaire is worth much more than my ring.'

'Well, it shall be just as you would have it,' replied she: 'twenty guineas shall be the event.' To which Jemmy agreeing, they sat down to a table which some company had just quit: she plucked off her solitaire, and he his ring; both the pledges were laid under the candlestick, and to play they went. Fortune, for several deals, seemed dubious in whose favour she should decide; but, at length, after a hard-fought battle, gave the victory to Jemmy.

'Was ever any thing so unlucky?' said she; 'but I will not give out.' 'Come, Sir,' continued she, shuffling the cards, 'twenty guineas more; or, if you please, thirty: I shall then either be indebted fifty pieces to you, or have a claim on you for ten.'

Jemmy would fain have persuaded her to give over; but she would hear

nothing he said on that score. They cut the cards; poor Liberia had the advantage of the deal, but was nothing a gainer by it; she had not even the satisfaction of a second struggle; he immediately produced point, queen, and quatorze, without the trouble of playing a card.

'Confusion!' cried she, bursting into tears; 'sure all the stars in the firmament have conspired against me!' With these words she rose from the table. 'You have won, Sir,' pursued she: 'I know your direction, and will send the money in a day or two.' She staid not to hear what answer he would make, but flew out of the room with an air which denoted the utmost agitation of mind.

Liberia had a great share of beauty, and Jemmy of good-nature; the distress she appeared in rendered her more lovely in his eyes than ever he had thought her; his heart was that instant filled with emotions she had never before inspired it with; he followed, with the solitaire in his hand, and overtook her as she was passing through a room in order to reach the stair-case.

'Madam,' said he to her, 'I cannot suffer that beautiful neck should be without so becoming an ornament, even for the smallest space of time; I beseech you therefore to resume this jewel, and also to assure yourself, that I dare take your word of honour as a sufficient security for a much greater sum than the trifle to which fortune has just now entitled me.'

'No, Mr. Jessamy,' answered she; 'that must not be: my lord is at present out of town; or, if he were at home, I should not chuse to acquaint him with my losses at play; it is also improper for me to let the steward know any thing of the matter. It may be longer than I could wish, or you perhaps expect, before I can, with any convenience, discharge my obligation; so desire you will say no more, but keep the pledge till in my power to redeem it.'

All this was delivered in a voice so broken and hesitating, that Jemmy easily perceived by that, as well as by her looks, that it was with the utmost reluctance she refused the offer he had made, though her pride would not suffer her to accept of it.

Something, which the reader will presently

sently discover, coming that moment into his head—'Since you insist, Madam,' said he, looking tenderly on her, 'and will needs force me to retain something of yours in my hands, consent, at least, that I exchange this mortgage for some other. If you will permit me to wait on you home, and look over your trinkets, I shall certainly find somewhat that will please me as well, and you can much better spare.'

'I must not reject every thing you propose,' replied she, with a half smile; and then received the solitaire from him, which he assisted her in replacing; and while he was doing so, gave her neck a gentle pressure, which she was not so insensible as not to know the meaning of.

There needed no more; she gave him her hand to lead her down stairs; her own chair waiting in the hall, she went into it, and he followed in a hackney.

On coming to her house, she conducted him directly to her dressing-room, where her woman being sitting at work, she bade her set a bottle of wine on the table, and retire till called for; saying she had some accounts to settle with that gentleman.

This attendant was no sooner withdrawn, than the reduced Liberia opened a little cabinet, which contained her jewels: 'Here, Sir,' cried she, 'are all the toys of this nature I am mistress of.' Jemmy scarce vouchsafing a glance towards them, replied—'They must be fine indeed, since owned by you; and must dazzle the sight of a man less knowing than I pretend to be in what is truly valuable: but what is all the lustre they can boast while you are in presence? How faint are the rays of the diamond to those your eyes send forth! How insipid, how weak, is the glow of the ruby to these lips!'

He began this speech with looking intently on her face; and finding nothing there to discourage his attempt, concluded with throwing his arms about her waist, and giving her more lively indications of his sense of the perfections he had praised, than all in the power of language could have done.

They were alone; a couch was in the room; she resisted not his encroachments; and one moment gave him the full possession of a happiness, which not

half an hour before he had not even the least thought of ever soliciting.

Scarce had he time to express the transports of his gratitude for the unhoped favours he had received, when Liberia, hearing the sound of voices on the stairs, rang her bell to know who was there; on which her woman immediately came in, and told her that two ladies, who had been at Lady Racket's assembly, and seeing her leave the company so abruptly, had called to know the occasion, fearing she might be indisposed.

'Lord! how impertinent is some people's friendship!' cried Liberia. 'Why did you not tell them I was well, but very busy?'—'I did so, Madam,' replied the other; 'and that you was shut up in your closet writing letters; but they insisted on seeing you, ran up stairs in spite of me, and are now in the drawing-room.'

'Well, there is no remedy for these things,' said she; 'I must go to them, or they will burst in upon me here.—You will excuse me, Mr. Jessamy; it is highly improper you should be seen:' then turning to her woman—'shew him down the back-stairs,' added she, 'with as little noise as you can.'

She said no more, but went out of the room to receive her company; and Jemmy suffered himself to be conducted by her woman in the manner she had ordered.

## CHAP. IX.

HAS SOMETHING IN IT OF THE MARVELLOUS.

**T**HOUGH Jemmy had as small a share of vanity in his composition as any man that ever lived, yet it would have been a thing almost supernatural in him, if an adventure, such as he had just now met with, had not elated a heart as unexperienced as was his. Liberia was a woman of distinction, young, beautiful, and had every requisite to render her the delight and admiration of mankind; to what else, then, but a peculiar liking of his person and behaviour, could it seem possible to him to impute the concessions she had made?

It is not to be understood, however, that the pleasing sensation he felt at this event proceeded from the gratification

of any passion he had entertained for the lady, who so highly had obliged him: on the contrary, his affection for Jenny was a sure defence from the attacks of any other charms; he had often seen Liberia, had thought her a fine woman, as every one did; but he had never been touched with the least spark of an amorous desire on her account; nor, on looking on her, had even considered the difference of sexes. But though what had happened between them was merely casual on his side, yet he could not help believing that it was a previous inclination on her's which alone could have excited her to act in the manner she had done.

The hurry in which they were compelled to part took from him all opportunity of testifying that desire of continuing a correspondence with her, which otherwise he thought she would have had reason to expect; and which even gratitude, politeness, and even common good-nature, would have exacted from him.

He therefore went the next morning to her house, certain in his mind of meeting with a reception suitable to the kindness she had given him such proofs of the night before. She was just dressed, and going to court; but, on his sending up his name, gave orders for his admittance; the servant, who introduced him withdrawing, he approached to salute her with the air and freedom of a favoured lover.

But how unspeakable was his surprise, when, going to take her in his arms, she started back, and with a countenance all awful and austere—'Hold off, Sir,' said she; 'this is a familiarity neither becoming you to take, nor me to grant.' The confusion he was in not permitting him to make any immediate reply—'I do not now,' continued she, 'owe fifty pieces to you.'

'No, Madam,' replied he, a little recovering himself; 'but you owe me a heart in return for that I have devoted to you.'—'I have nothing to do with your heart,' resumed she; 'and, as for mine, it is my husband's due.'—'If you really think so, Madam,' cried he, 'wherefore did you flatter me last night with having so large a part?'—'What happened last night,' said she, 'was merely accidental: I had lost all my money, and

the debts we contract at play, you know, are debts of honour; but where my own is not concerned, be assured I shall always have a just regard for that of my husband.'

In spite of the consternation Jemmy was in, he could not refrain smiling at the distinction this lady made; and, with an air which had something of contemptuous in it—'I thought, Madam,' said he, 'that the honour of the husband and the wife had always been inseparable.'

'They are so, I allow,' answered she; 'but necessity sometimes compels a woman to do what otherwise she would not be guilty of: therefore I beg you will think no more of what has happened; it was a foolish affair, indeed; but, as it cannot be recalled, should be forgotten.'

He was about to make some reply, which it is likely would not have been very pleasing to her, but she went to the door, and called to know if the chariot was ready; and being told it was—'Adieu, Mr. Jessamy,' said she; 'I am obliged to attend the princess. I hope, whenever we meet, you will always treat me as the wife of Lord \*\*\*.'

She had no sooner spoke these words, than she shot like lightning out of the room, leaving Jemmy in a situation of mind not easy to be described, or even conceived, by any one who has not been under the same circumstances.

It was not that his pride was so much mortified at this unexpected rebuff, as his comprehension was confounded at it's being given: the more he endeavoured to fathom the mysterious meaning, the more he was absorbed in wonder; in fine, he knew not what to think, nor by what motive to account for a proceeding so strange, so contradictory to the very nature of the sex.

The first shock of any thing is very difficult to be concealed; the spirits, when suddenly alarmed, are in a hurry for a while, then sink into as extreme a languor. Jemmy dined that day at a tavern, by an appointment he had made with some gentlemen of his acquaintance; but neither their conversation, nor the glass, which went briskly about, had the power of dissipating his chagrin, or driving Liberia entirely from his thoughts.

The least air of seriousness in persons  
of



of an extraordinary vivacity cannot fail of being taken notice of. Jemmy was looked upon as the life and soul of all the company he went into; and now to find him, instead of inspiring others with good-humour, stand in need of being inspired himself, made every one desirous of knowing what had occasioned this sudden transformation; but the affair was not a thing to be talked on, and he evaded giving any direct answer to the questions put to him on this head.

He did not long, however, preserve a taciturnity on this occasion, which was pretty painful to him: the company being broke up, and only one gentleman, with whom he had a greater intimacy than with any of the others, staying behind, he could not forbear speaking of what so much engrossed his thoughts. In fine, he related to him the whole history of his late whimsical adventure, concealing only the name of the heroine concerned in it.

But how strangely was he disappointed, when, instead of hearing his friend express some astonishment, as he expected he would have done, at an event so new and uncommon, he only burst into such a violent fit of laughter as hindered him from speaking for some moments!

'What!' cried Jemmy; 'the story I have been telling you is too romantic to be believed; and you suspect I have been endeavouring all this while to impose upon your understanding an invention of my own, in the room of a real fact?'

'No, upon my word,' replied the other; 'I am so confident of the truth of all you have repeated, that, upon occasion, I would be your voucher for every particular of it: but what made me so merry was, the great care you have taken in keeping the name of this fine lady a secret. What will you say now,' continued he, 'if I tell you at once, that I am certain no woman but Liberia is capable of behaving in the manner you have described?'

Liberia herself had scarce given Jemmy more surprize than his friend did in mentioning her as the person they were talking of. 'Liberia!' cried he. 'What have I said to raise such a conjecture in you?'

'Nothing, upon my soul!' answered the other: 'you have nothing to ac-

cuse yourself of in this point, and might have told the story to five hundred people without one of them being able to guess at the woman. It is not my penetration, but my experience, has let me into the secret of this matter: and, to make you master of another, I must tell you, that I have been beforehand with you.'

Jemmy not perfectly comprehending these words, asked what he meant.

'It happened,' said he, 'the other day, that one evening I played at the same table with this extraordinary lady: I swept the stakes, and she being out of cash, we went on upon credit; Fortune was still on my side; she lost a considerable sum to me, which I had the same equivalent for that she bestowed on you; and when I waited on her some days afterwards, in order to repeat my devoirs, received almost just the same repulse you did; and found that it was her humour—no play, no love.'

'Then neither of us,' cried Jemmy, 'are obliged for the favours we have received to an amorous inclination on her part?'—'No, faith,' replied his friend; 'I rather take her to be one of the insensibles that way: but her lust for gaming is insatiate; she would be eternally at it; there all the passions of her soul are centered; and though at present a professed enemy to religion, would be the greatest devotee imaginable, were she once persuaded there were gaming-tables in heaven.'

'In fine, my dear Jemmy,' pursued he, 'the case stands thus: she loses more at play in one month, perhaps, than the rent-roll of Lord \*\*\*'s estate produces in a year; and being, either through fear or tenderness, unwilling to make him acquainted with her ill-luck, prudently takes the method you and I have experienced of satisfying the winners, and thinks herself no ill wife in so doing; since she forfeits her husband's honour only to preserve his peace, and never repeats her transgression with the same man, unless compelled to it by a second necessity of the like nature.'

Jemmy being now, by this detail, entirely freed from the perplexity of thought which the first surprize at the strangeness of Liberia's behaviour had involved him in, it is not to be doubt-

ed but that, these two young gentlemen were pleasant enough on the affair in question, and mutually laughed at each other for the disappointment each of them had received, in imagining they had been favoured with a peculiar liking by that lady.

Neither of them having any engagements on their hands, they passed the whole evening together till the night was very far advanced, and called them to repose; during all which time little else but Liberia was talked on.

But as the repetition of a conversation, founded on such a topick, might not be very agreeable to such of our readers as we should be most studious to oblige; and, besides, would not be at all material to the business of this history; we may reasonably hope being easily excused for passing it over in silence.

#### CHAP. X.

AFFORDS BUT SMALL MATTER OF ENTERTAINMENT; YET, IF WELL CONSIDERED, MAY BE OF SINGULAR USE TO SOME READERS.

**T**HERE is a certain haughty firmness almost inherent to old age, which will not let people, when they come to be anything advanced in years, allow the least share of understanding in those of a younger sort; they treat them as mere idiots, incapable of comparing, judging, or even of knowing right from wrong.

But this is a partiality which betrays that want of discernment in themselves which they accuse in others. If youth, through too much fire, is addicted to vanity, rashness, and impetuosity; age, through too much phlegm, is no less liable to peevishness, obstinacy, and pride: in both the faults of constitution have but too great an effect upon the will, and deprive reason of half its force.

The faculties of the mind certainly decay, and grow weaker in proportion as the vigour of the body is impaired; a keenness of conception, a readiness of thought, and what is generally called wit, are the gifts of youth; when the organs, through which the soul is said to operate, are in their full strength as nature made them, unobstructed by dis-

eases, and unworn by time. Age is chiefly wise by experience, and by improving those observations which a long series of years had treasured up. It must therefore be allowed, that young people are far from being incapable of making the most just reflections; but the baits of sense, the excitements of pleasure, and the whirl of a thousand different passions, which incessantly agitate the ideas, prevent those reflections from making any lasting impression, and consequently from being of any real use in regulating their actions; so that they can be said to be discreet only by starts; and it is in this alone that all the boasted advantages of age consist.

Nothing was ever more strictly true than what that celebrated poet, Mr. Dryden, says, when, speaking of the difference between youth and age, he expresses the whole sense of the argument in these two equally elegant and comprehensive lines.

Experience vainly in our youth is sought;  
And, by age purchas'd, is too dearly bought.

Our Jemmy was one of those who never did any thing which reason could condemn, without being immediately self-convicted and ashamed of his error; though, as I said before, through the fire of youth, the enchantments of pleasure, and the prevalence of example, he could not avoid falling again into the same. As to play in particular, without any extraordinary propensity of his own, he was frequently drawn in to make a party at several gaming-tables, both private and publick; yet did he never reflect on what money he had lost, without being convinced he could not have disposed of it in a worse way; nor did he ever win of any gentleman, whose circumstances he knew could not well bear a diminution, without being shocked to the soul for having been one of those who had contributed to his misfortune.

He was perfectly sensible both of the vice and folly of gaming, as at present practised among almost all degrees of people; and stood amazed whenever he recollected, that he had seen men of the first figure and fortune in the kingdom not only condescend to mix in company with the common sharpers and gamblers of the town, but also to make use of the same low arts they did, in order

order to force chance, as it were, to be their friend.

He could not think, without a mixture of pity and contempt, on those who, neglecting the accounts of their estates, and trusting all to their stewards and bailiffs, boasted how well they were versed in Mr. Hoyle's calculation in the cutting of a pack of cards, and swear five pieces an hour was too small pay for the instructions of so learned a doctor in the great, mysterious, and most polite science of gaming.

He very often ran over in his mind all the various amusements of the town; and on comparing them with this of gaming, none of them seemed to him to have so small a plea for engrossing either the time or attention of a man of sense and honour.

'Every other pleasure or diversion,' said he within himself, 'have something in them deserving that name; they either regale the senses, or exercise the body, or relieve the mind: but gaming is the contrary of all these; it impedes the gratification of our most natural appetites, it enervates the limbs with too long sitting, it racks the brain with cares, it fills the bosom with anxieties, and, in fine, is a fatigue, which, were it not the effect of our own free choice, would be intolerable.'

'Nor is this all,' would he sometimes add: 'an inordinate love of gaming certainly proceeds from avarice, the most sordid passion of the heart, and consequently destroys all that is generous, noble, and sincere; deadens that social feel, that kindly warmth, which nature has implanted in us towards our fellow-creatures; and renders the man devoted to this vice capable of no other wish than to enjoy the infamous triumph of bearing off the spoils of him he plays against, though it should even happen to be one he calls his friend, or one who must be entirely ruined by the loss of what he is now in possession of, through the favour of fortune, or a superior skill in the destructive art.'

He concluded from all this, that to undo others, or to be undone one's self, was the almost certain consequence of gaming high; for which reason he made many resolutions to avoid it as much as possible; and indeed persisted in them more than could be well ex-

pected from a man of his gay temper, and who, by the company he kept, was continually surrounded with temptations of that sort.

But if he thought the love of play so pernicious a thing in those of his own sex, in what light must he behold it in regard to those of the other? He had read some old musty authors, who maintained that modesty was a peculiar characteristic of womanhood; that an innocence of deportment was the chief beauty of a virgin; and economy in private, and a decent reserve in publick, that of a married woman: and he could not get it out of his head but that these maxims were just contrary, as they were to what he had seen practised at play by some ladies, who pass for patterns of politeness and fashionable good-breeding; and in comparing the difference, he could not forbear crying out — 'Sure, when these books were wrote, gaming was a thing never heard of among women!'

These having always been his notions, it could not be otherwise but that the example of Liberia must greatly contribute to fortify them in him, as he now experienced what he had many times been told by those better acquainted with the ladies, that those debts which are called debts of honour, are often discharged by loss of honour.

'What an amiable figure in life might this woman make,' said he, speaking of Liberia, 'if it were not for this mad attachment to gaming! I dare believe she has no vicious inclinations of her own; and her quality and marriage with Lord \*\*\* defend her from all impertinent addresses of our sex. How strange, then, is the infatuation which compels her to run the fatal risque of being reduced to yield to such condescensions as otherwise her pride would scorn, and her virtue shudder at!'

He never ruminated in this manner without falling immediately after into a profound reverie; which, whoever had seen him in, would not have taken him for that gay, laughing, spiritous creature he appeared at other times: but it generally happens, that persons of that humour, when they think at all, think more deeply than those of a heavy and phlegmatick disposition.

The many mischiefs which sometimes

times befal the fair-sex, by indulging themselves in this dangerous amusement, made him tremble for Jenny: he knew she played occasionally; but though he had never heard her testify any extraordinary pleasure in it, yet he could not assure himself that she might not, by degrees, be drawn into a better liking of it, and consequently become liable to the same inconveniences to which so many others of her sex were every day subjected.

Love, friendship, and the consideration of his own interest and honour, as Jenny was one day to become his wife, obliged him therefore to do every thing in his power to prevent so great an evil; nor could he think of any method more effectual for that end, than by reminding her, in a delicate way, and without seeming to do it with design, of the dangers to which women who love play could not fail of being exposed.

He had no sooner thought on this, than he resolved to put it into immediate execution; and, to give the greater weight to what he intended to say, ransacked his memory for all the alarming circumstances of a gaming-table, that he had ever seen or heard of.

#### CHAP. XI.

##### A LITTLE MORE TO THE PURPOSE.

JEMMY knew that his fair mistress kept a great deal of company, and that most of her afternoons were taken up with giving and receiving visits: whenever, therefore, he had any particular conversation to entertain her with, he always went to her in a morning. The business he had to communicate seeming to him of too much importance to be delayed, his impatience carried him thither more early than was his custom; yet he had not the satisfaction of finding her alone; the two lovely daughters of Mrs. G—— were just gone up stairs before him: but he was not much disconcerted at their presence, as he saw they were in their dishabille, and he could not doubt but that the hour of the day would soon call them home, in order to ornament those charms which were too much admired not to make them desirous of shewing them to the best advantage, whenever they appeared in publick places, which they seldom

or never failed to take all opportunities of doing.

These ladies, whose history it is probable will, some time or other, make a very interesting figure in the world, were distinguished more by the name of the Two Beautiful Sisters than that of their family: they were, indeed, lovely beyond what language can describe, or fancy, without seeing them, delineate. Both of them were tall, finely shaped, of a most graceful air, had the most regular features; eyes at once commanding and attracting love and admiration; and so equally had Nature dealt her bounties to them, that hard it is to say which of them excelled in any one of those perfections which each possessed in so lavish abundance.

But being so like beautiful was certainly a misfortune to them; for each seeming most lovely when the other was away, yet neither of them having the preference when together, the beholder's eye was kept in continual motion, without knowing on which to fix: this it was which, joined with some other considerations not my business to enquire into, perhaps kept them much longer from being married than many who have not the thousandth part of their power of charming.

This consideration, however, seemed to have but little weight with them: they lived in the most perfect harmony; were rarely seen asunder, whether at the Play, the Opera, the Court, the Mall, Vauxhall, Ranelagh; in all places of resort they were inseparable as the twin stars that grace the zodiack.

In fine, so much the same, in every respect, were this pair of charmers, that, if Mr. Waller had lived in their days, one would have imagined he could have no other in his eyes when he wrote these lines—

- ‘ Not the silver doves that fly,
- ‘ Yok’d in Cytherea’s car;
- ‘ Not the wings which soar so high,
- ‘ And convey her son so far;
- ‘ Are so lovely, sweet, and fair,
- ‘ Or do more ennobel love,
- ‘ Are so choicely-match’d a pair,
- ‘ Or with more consent do move.’

Fortunately for Jemmy’s design, it fell out that the conversation turned chiefly on the subject of gaming, on account of a certain lady, who, having  
no



no more than five and twenty hundred pounds per annum, had, according to her own confession, lost nine thousand in one season at play.

Jenny expressed, with so much warmth and spirit, the contempt she had of those who made a kind of business or trade, as it were, of this amusement, as sufficiently denoted the sincerity of her heart while she was speaking, and gave Jemmy an infinite satisfaction in hearing her.

The two beautiful sisters made but a very short visit, as Jemmy had conjectured; and, after they were gone, he resumed the topic they had been talking on: 'You women,' said he, smiling, 'have much the advantage over us men; some of you, at least, have been ingenious enough to have found out a very easy method of discharging all the debts you contract at play. I could give you,' continued he, 'a thousand instances of what I say; but I shall content myself with only one, in which a friend of mine made me the confidante, and on whose veracity I dare as much depend as if I had been in his place, and one of the chief parties concerned in it.'

Finding Jenny looked earnestly upon him all the time he had been speaking, and seemed in a disposition to give attention to every thing he said upon that subject, he went on, and related to her, with as much brevity and modesty as such an affair would permit, all that had passed between himself, Liberia, and the other gentleman, who had been a sharer with him in the favour of that lady; hiding from her only the names, and some few circumstances, which might have given her room to guess more than he wished she should do.

Jenny was shocked to the very soul at this recital. She had been witness of many extravagances that women who devote themselves to gaming are often guilty of; she knew very well that they reduced themselves to great straits, sometimes even to the total ruin of their own and husband's fortune; but could never have imagined that any of them, merely for the sake of play, would have proceeded to those frightful lengths she now was told of.

After having expressed some part of her astonishment and indignation at such a depravity of nature—'How

ought,' cried she, 'every one to guard against the first approaches of this dangerous propensity!' And then again—'Bless me!' added she, 'how can any one, who has a tongue to speak, and common sense to dictate what they say, lavish those hours in gaming which might be passed in an agreeable and improving conversation? If no other ill consequences than barely loss of time attended it, methinks it were enough to hinder any one, not altogether void of reason, from pursuing, with the eagerness some do, an amusement, at the best, trifling and idle!'

It is not to be doubted but that Jemmy was quite transported at finding in his fair mistress's sentiments so just, and so exactly conformable to those he had, with the greatest ardency, wished she should be inspired with: he had no words which seemed to him sufficient to praise, as they deserved, her prudence and penetration; yet said enough on that occasion to put her modestly to the blush.

'Do not fancy me to be possessed of more merit than I have,' answered she: 'I believe that many of our sex, with as little inclination as myself to play, have been enticed to it by the examples of those whom we are so silly as to think it an honour to imitate, even in their vices. Whatever we see practised by those of the great world becomes a law to us of the inferior class; and I can tell you, that it is not owing to my own judgment, but to mere accident, that I am brought to a more reasonable way of thinking.'

'You must know,' continued she, 'that a lady, who is a distant relation of mine, took me with her one evening to the route of a person of condition: there was a prodigious deal of company, three large rooms made into one, and no less than fourteen tables set out for different sorts of gaming. Every body played; and, though I never was fond of cards, yet was ashamed, in so public an assembly, not to do as others did; so engaged myself with a party who were sitting down to whist. Either through want of skill or attention, I soon lost twenty pieces, which was all I had about me at that time: but having no notion

of giving over, as the others were for continuing, I went to my cousin, who was at quadrille at another table, in order to get a fresh supply from her; but, to my great mortification, found she was entirely stripped as well as myself; and there was none of the company with whom I was intimate enough to become a borrower.

'I must confess,' pursued she, 'that I then was silly enough to be heartily vexed at this disappointment, and retired to the other end of the room, debating within myself whether I should not go quite away, or see how my cousin would behave, who, I found, was still at play with the same party she had been engaged in. As I was in this perplexity, the Earl of \*\*\*\*, who had betted at our table, and been witness both of my ill-luck and present confusion, came towards me; and putting a purse, that seemed very weighty, into my hand, which he held fast grasped between both his— "It is pity," said he, "that so fine a young lady should be deprived of her diversion on any account whatever, much less on that of a little paltry cash: accept these few pieces, they may be more lucky to you than your own; but, if it prove otherwise, command as many from me as you shall stand in need of."

'I protest to you,' went she still on, 'that I was so confounded at finding myself accosted in this manner, that I had neither courage nor presence of mind enough to resent, at first, so impudent an overture, as I ought to have done; and it was the simplicity of my behaviour which perhaps encouraged him to proceed: for I only asking what his lordship meant, he replied, with an air and voice sufficiently explanatory of the base thoughts he had of me— "I mean to devote myself, and all I have, at the altar of your charms; happy if you smile upon the sacrifice!"

'Never was any poor creature so overwhelmed with different passions as I then was! Amazement, shame, disdain, and rage, at once rose in my bosom, and almost stopped the passage of my breath! I forgot all respect of his birth and place; and throwing the purse he had given me upon the floor—" Carry your offers," said I,

"to those who want them; I despise both them and the hand from which they came!"

'With these words I burst from him, and rejoined the company. My cousin was still playing, having borrowed of some person she was acquainted with; and I kept leaning over the back of her chair all the time we staid. His lordship passed by me more than once, and discovered by his looks that he was no less affronted at my behaviour than I had been at his; which, contrary to what it is likely his vanity might make him imagine, gave me more satisfaction than discontent.

'I was, however, very much agitated to think that any man, how great soever, had dared to treat me with the freedom he had done. On coming home, I complained of it to my cousin; but she only ridiculed me for it; told me I was a novice in the ways of the town; that, if she had been in my place, she would have taken his money, and laughed at him afterwards for bestowing it: for which I liked her so ill, that I have ever since avoided her as much as possible.

'Thus you see, my dear Jemmy,' added she, on concluding her little narrative, 'that my dislike of gaming is not owing to my prudence in considering the folly of it; for I confess I never thought much about the matter, but merely to Lord \*\*\*\*'s behaviour; for certainly no young woman of common modesty, if treated as I was, will ever indulge herself in an amusement that renders her virtue liable to be exposed to such insolent attacks!'

It was not in the power of all she could say, however, to make Jemmy desist from giving her the praises she deserved, nor from entertaining in his mind the highest idea of her understanding, as well as her virtue; inasmuch that, could he have thought himself equally qualified in what might be expected from a husband, as she was in every thing that could be wished for in a wife, he would have seen no reason for delaying their mutual happiness for one moment.

But a just consciousness of some little frailties which afforded him too much pleasure to be able as yet to rectify,

tify, made him forbear to press her on the subject of their marriage for the present.

### C H A P. XII.

CONTAINS A VERY NOTABLE INSTANCE OF FRIENDSHIP A-LA-MODE.

**W**HILE our lovers were thus endeavouring to form their minds in such a manner as should enable them to render each other perfectly happy when they should come to be united together, there were not wanting some who made it their chief study to contrive the means of separating them for ever.

Jemmy had contracted a very numerous acquaintance since his father's death, many of whom had a large share of his esteem and friendship; but there was one, above the rest, whose humour and behaviour he was particularly taken with, and with whom he conversed with the most unreserved freedom.

This gentleman, who was called Bellpine, was descended from a very ancient family; and had been, through the extravagance and ill-management of his father, deprived of all that ought to have been his patrimony, except two hundred pounds a year, which had been settled upon his mother by way of jointure, and could not be dissipated.

He had, notwithstanding, been flattered with the expectation of being one day in possession of an estate of near three thousand pounds per annum, being the undoubted heir of an uncle, who, having lived a bachelor till a very advanced age, there was not the least probability of his ever changing his condition, much less of his having any children, even in case such a thing should happen: and this dependance it was that hindered him from being bred up to any business or profession, and also gave him an air of self-sufficiency, in some measure, conformable to the fortune he so reasonably hoped to become master of.

This uncle, however, to the surprise of all that knew him, at the age of eighty-two, and equally laden with infirmities and years, took it into his head to marry a daughter of one of his tenants in the country; a girl scarce nineteen.

An accident such as this could not, when it happened, but give a very great shock to Bellpine, as he could not assure himself but that, in spite of his uncle's great age, a child, some way or other, might come; and cut him off at once from the inheritance he had been made to depend upon. Yet did he not suffer his spirits to sink on this occasion; he rather exerted them all, in order to find some means to remedy, or at least to abate, the asperity of this disappointment: the most feasible ones, he thought, would be to procure, if possible, some genteel employment about court; and, at the same time, make his addresses to some lady of an handsome fortune for a wife.

He was soliciting at the levees of the great for the accomplishment of his first project; and casting about in his mind where he should direct his courtship with the utmost probability of succeeding in the other, when he commenced an acquaintance with Jemmy: chance brought them at first together; and a mutual liking of each other's conversation, by degrees, grew up to that intimacy between them already mentioned.

Jemmy was of the most open communicative disposition that man could possibly be; he had very few affairs in life which he made secrets of to any of those whom he called his friends: but with Bellpine he maintained no reserve; he made him the confidante of all his looser pleasures; his foibles, his very thoughts, were not concealed from him; it therefore may be supposed that he disguised not the honourable affection he had for Jenny; the care that both their parents had taken to bring them up in notions of being united together when they arrived at years of maturity; and also the reasons urged on her side, and agreed to on his, for delaying, for some time, the celebration of their nuptials.

As his heart was warm with a passion which duty, and the custom of looking on her as the person ordained for his wife, had at first inspired him with, and a just sensibility of the many amiable qualities she was mistress of had afterwards greatly heightened in him, he spoke of her in a manner sufficient to enflame the heart of the hearer with envy at his happiness: in this, indeed, it must be confessed that he shewed more

E 2                      sincerity

sincerity than prudence; but, as one of our poets observes—

- ‘ Those free from guile themselves, can scarce  
‘ believe  
‘ That others will be false.’——

Nor was this all: he contented not himself with giving him a bare idea of what she was; he introduced him to her acquaintance; he frequently made him a partner in his visits to her, recommending him as a person highly worthy of her esteem and friendship; and, in fine, spoke of him in terms which obliged her to treat him as such; little, alas! suspecting that, while doing this, he was whetting the edge of a sword that might one day be pointed against his own bosom.

Belpine was far from being the man the honest heart of Jemmy mistook him for: he was possessed, it is true, of many accomplishments both natural and acquired, but had no fund of honour or generosity: he knew perfectly how to insinuate himself into the good graces of those he conversed with; but thought himself not bound to make an adequate return for any favours he received from them; all his wishes were centered in self-gratification; and no consideration for others had ever any weight to make him desist from that favourite pursuit.

But being of a disposition such as I have described, it is not to be wondered at that the fine person and large fortune of Jenny should make him envy the happiness of him who was to be the possessor of that double treasure: he loved her on the score of her beauty, her wit, and the many amiable qualities he had observed in her; but adored her as being the mistress of what he so much wanted; and, filled with the idea of those advantages he might reap in an alliance with her, made him resolve on the attempt, and to take all the methods his inventive fancy could inspire to alienate her affections from his friend.

He had often heard Jemmy say, that the agreement between them for contracting the celebration of their marriage had been first proposed by her; from whence he concluded, that the passion she had for him was not so violent, but that it might be easily withdrawn, if she was once made to believe there was a decay in that he professed for her.

He was sensible, notwithstanding, that there required a more than common share of caution and address in the management of this design; he saw very well, that Jenny had a great deal of sagacity and penetration; it behoved him, therefore, either to throw such a temptation in Jemmy's way as should render him in effect ungrateful and perfidious, or contrive such appearances of his being so, as could not be discovered from reality by human wit.

With the first of these measures he commenced the prosecution of his design, though, of the two, the least feasible to be accomplished, as it was very difficult to find a woman who excelled Jenny in any one perfection that can attract the eye, or captivate the heart: ‘ Love,’ said he within himself, ‘ is seldom so much the effect of reason as of fancy; and if I can be so lucky as to present an object capable of firing the heart of this too happy rival with an amorous flame, and she has virtue or cunning enough to refuse the gratification on any other terms than those of marriage, it may so happen, that all the merits of Jenny, and his engagements with her, will be too light to overbalance inclination.’

He knew that Jemmy was extremely fond of music; he had seen him in the utmost rapture on hearing a melodious voice, or an instrument finely played upon; and it was by this bait he hoped to allure Jemmy from his vows, or at least to draw him into such a manner of behaviour as should pique the pride of Jenny, and render her indifferent towards him.

To dissolve the cement of that tender affection, with which they now regarded each other, would go a great way towards gaining the point he aimed at; he flattered himself, that if he could once set them at variance, he was at present enough in Jenny's favour to be able to obtain the first share in her tenderness, when taken off from the man who now engrossed it.

The person whose charms he intended as the snare to entrap the constancy of Jemmy was called Miss Chit: she passed, in the opinion of most people, for the daughter of a gentleman distinguished in the world for nothing so much as for being her father; but it was whispered, by those who pretended to be connoisseurs in the secret intrigues of the



the great, that she really sprung from parents of a much more elevated station.

She was young, handsome, well-shaped; and, though of somewhat too diminutive a stature, had an air and mien extremely striking; she wanted neither wit nor assurance to set off the talents she was mistress of to the best advantage; she was a great courtier, and perfectly skilled in all the rudiments of modish good-breeding: but the chief inducement that Bellpine had to make choice of her as an instrument of his purpose was this; Nature had given her a voice that seemed the very soul of harmony; and, when accompanied by her harpsichord, which she finely touched, the mellifluous sounds had power to calm the most raging passions of the mind, and convert all into love and soft desire; so that what the poet says of Mira, might be justly enough ascribed to her—

‘The wretch, who from her wit and beauty  
‘flies,  
‘If she but reach him with her voice, he dies.’

Bellpine frequently visited this lady, and was welcome to her on account of his facetious conversation, and the intelligence he picked up among his acquaintance, and was continually informing her of the intrigues of the town. As he was well received by her, he could not fail of being so by her father, who, it was easy to perceive, was but the second person in the family: standing thus as he did with both, it cannot be supposed he wanted interest to introduce any one he thought proper to her acquaintance. He would not, however, proceed too abruptly in the affair, as it might have spoiled all, if either party had suspected him of design; but watched an opportunity, when they were talking one day of musick, to ask Jemmy, in a careless manner, as if it were by chance, if he had ever heard Miss Chit sing and play.

‘No,’ replied he; ‘but I have heard she does both to very great perfection.’—‘I wonder,’ said the other, ‘that you should not have the curiosity to be a judge of her skill that way yourself, as you are so great a lover of musick!’

‘I have not the honour to be at all known to her,’ replied Jemmy; ‘nor have even ever seen her, any more than

‘en passant, once or twice I think at court, and two or three times in the Mall with Lady Fisk.’

‘I am pretty free there,’ cried Bellpine; ‘and if you have an inclination to hear this female Orpheus of the town, will take you with me, and also engage she shall give you a touch of her harmony, both vocal and instrumental; for, to do her justice, she has not the least reserve in this point; her harpsichord is never out of tune, nor her voice disconcerted with a cold.’

Jemmy expressed a great deal of satisfaction at this offer, but gave much more than what he felt himself to his pretended friend, who looked on the ready compliance he found in him as a happy beginning of the enterprize he had projected. They agreed to meet at White’s the next day, and then proceeded on their visit to the lady.

#### CHAP. XIII.

IS FULL OF REMARKABLE AND INTERESTING PARTICULARS.

BELLPINE had no occasion to make any previous apology to Miss Chit for bringing a friend with him to visit her, having already taken that liberty without her being displeased with it, in favour of several of his companions, who had testified to him a desire of becoming acquainted with her.

But it was not in this manner he chose to introduce Jemmy: the plot he had laid required they should appear as agreeable as possible to each other; it was therefore highly necessary to prepossess her with such an idea of the person she was to see, as should make her neglect nothing that might set off all the charms she was mistress of to the best advantage. Having well considered within himself under what character a man was likely to appear in the eyes of a young, gay, vain woman, he went to her pretty early in the morning, and began with telling her he was come in behalf of a gentleman who had entreated him to be his intercessor for permission to wait on her with him that afternoon.

This formal speech from a man whose usual deportment might rather be accused of too little than too much ceremony, made her laugh very heartily: ‘Bless me,’ said she, ‘what romances I have

‘ have you been reading! We are not, sure, running back to the days of Orondates and Statyra. If you have any friend to bring here, what need all this prelude? You know very well that every one you introduce is welcome.’

Bellpine on this threw off the serious air he had affected, and resumed that free and undaunted one which was most natural to him: ‘ Faith, Madam,’ answered he, ‘ I can easily join with you in laughing at myself; I know I must make an odd figure in the grave strain, by the pains I took in putting it on; but I thought, as I was one of Cupid’s harbingers, my message ought to be delivered in somewhat above the common phrase.’

‘ A harbinger from Cupid!’ cried she; ‘ I find, then, you would persuade me you have this commission to me from a lover.’—‘ Most certainly,’ answered he; ‘ from one who is three parts so at least: he is already charmed with your face, your air, your shape; and there is only wanting your fine voice to compleat the conquest.’

‘ Of whom?’ demanded she. ‘ It is fit I should know the name of this new vassal.’—‘ Have a little patience,’ said he, ‘ and I will tell you every thing. In the first place, he is a young heir lately come to the possession of an estate sufficient to support a coach-and-fix; in the next place, he is handsome, well-made, has as genteel an address as any man about town; lastly, he is allowed to have wit, honour, and good-nature; and his name is Jessamy.’

‘ I have seen that gentleman,’ returned she, somewhat seriously; ‘ and believe you have done him no more than justice in the representation you have made of him: but I have been told he is deeply engaged, and on the point of being married to a young lady of his own name; I think they call her Miss Jenny Jessamy.’

‘ Nothing in it, upon my honour!’ cried Bellpine; ‘ I can aver to you from my own knowledge, that there are no two people in the world of different sexes that have a more perfect indifference for each other: there was, indeed, such a thing intended for them by their fathers; but the old men are both dead; and you know, Madam, we young folks are apt to pay but

‘ little regard to the injunctions laid upon us by those who are no longer in a condition to resent our disobedience. It is true,’ continued this artful deceiver, ‘ they see each other very frequently, hold a good correspondence, converse as friends; but without one grain of inclination on either side. I am very well assured, by what I have heard both of them declare, that should either of them insist on the performance of the covenant made between their parents, an eternal breach must infallibly ensue.’

Jemmy and Jenny Jessamy kept too much company not to be well known in the polite world; their characters, their fortunes, and their mutual engagements, were no secret; they were the subjects of conversation among many who had not the least personal acquaintance with either of them; and it was a matter of surprize to every one, that a marriage which had so long ago been projected, was not as yet consummated.

As nobody had pretended to discover any reason for this unaccountable delay, Miss Chit might easily give credit to that which Bellpine now assigned for it. Bellpine watched her every look; and perceiving that his insinuations had wrought thus far on her belief, proceeded to what now seemed to him a task not difficult to be accomplished; that of persuading her Jemmy in reality felt some beginning of a passion for her.

‘ You cannot imagine,’ said he, ‘ with what raptures he expresses himself concerning you: the first time he saw you was at court; I was with him the same evening, and he could talk on nothing but you the whole time we were together. “What eyes she has! how bright! how sparkling! What a mouth! what a finely turned—! How delicate is her shape! how enchanting is her air!”’

‘ Hold, Mr. Bellpine!’ interrupted she, putting her hand before his mouth; ‘ for the sake of curiosity, no more! If you go on at this rate, I shall know beforehand, and he will have nothing new to say to me when he comes.’

‘ Nay,’ rejoined Bellpine, ‘ I do not suppose he will say much to you at this first visit, nor, perhaps, at the second, or even at the third. I have been told, by those who have experienced the passion, that a true lover never gets courage to declare what he feels’

'feels to his mistress till half the town are apprized of it by his behaviour: but,' pursued he, 'you will have penetration enough to read in his looks what his lips want boldness to reveal.' — 'Pish!' says she, 'do you think I shall give myself the trouble to examine his looks? It will be time enough for me to attend to them when his tongue shall have explained the dictates of his heart.'

They had some farther discourse on this head; and, in spite of the careless air Miss Chit affected to put on, the cunning Bellpine saw the impression his words had made upon her; and, after adding all that he thought necessary for strengthening it in her, took his leave, highly applauding himself in his mind for what he had done. He met Jemmy at the appointed hour at the chocolate-house, and about tea-time went with him on their purposed visit: on his sending up his name they were immediately shewed to the room where Miss Chit was sitting; when he found, by the great care she had taken in her dress, and the exactness of every thing about her, that he had not flattered himself with a vain conjecture, but that she was indeed as desirous as he could wish of appearing lovely in the eyes of this new guest.

Jemmy, being presented to her by Bellpine, saluted her with the utmost gallantry; she received him with a becoming modesty, which, notwithstanding, had something of inviting in it: the conversation at first turned only on general topics; but Bellpine would not suffer it to continue so, and told her, in his usual free manner, that he should not think himself forgiven for the liberty he had taken, till she had obliged both him and his friend with a song and a touch of her harpsichord.

To this she replied, with a sprightly tone of voice and gesture, that whatever he might think of her, she had too much complaisance for a stranger, who seemed so well to deserve it, not to do every thing in her power to render the visit he had favoured her with agreeable to him. In speaking these words she sat down to her instrument; and, without waiting for any more entreaties, began to sing one of the most favourite airs in Mr. Handel's last oratorio.

As she had in reality a very fine voice, great skill in musick, and played admirably well, there was no occasion that

Jemmy should stretch truth to a pitch too high in expressing the pleasure he took in hearing her. But it was not in mere words alone he testified the mighty influence that the well-concerted notes had over him: he languished; he died; his soul seemed all absorbed, dissolved in extasy; and he not only spoke, but looked in such a manner as, without being prepossessed, as she was, with an opinion of his having a passion for her, might well make her believe he had other charms for him besides those of her voice and skill in musick.

As often as she gave over, Bellpine pressed her to renew the harmony; and sometimes Jemmy assumed the boldness to second a petition, which he was very sensible was made entirely on his account. The lady was not refractory to their united entreaties, and continued playing till her father came into her room. The usual compliments being passed, they all sat down, and entered into conversation; but whatever subject was started by the old gentleman, either the one or the other of Miss Chit's visitors had the address to turn it on the praise of musick, and the perfection which she had attained to in that science.

Jemmy said many things which might seem extravagant on this occasion; but thinking he had staid long enough for a first visit, rose up, and was preparing to take his leave, when Mr. Chit, who had been tutored beforehand by his daughter how he should behave, would not suffer him to speak of going, seized upon his hat and gloves, and said, that if his daughter had afforded them any entertainment, it was owing to him for having provided the best masters for her; and he therefore expected they would recompense him for it, by giving him their company the remainder of the evening; adding, that supper was just ready to be served up.

Jemmy would fain have excused himself, as he had an appointment which he was very unwilling to break; but there was no resisting the present kind compulsion, especially as Miss Chit condescended to join her entreaties with her father's; he therefore complied, and contented himself with sending an apology to those who expected his coming. The collation prepared for them was so elegant, the old gentleman's conversation so facetious, and his daughter's musick so delightful, that the night

was

was almost lost in morning-dawn, when Jemmy and his false friend came away: but what use the latter made of this long visit, the reader will very soon discover.

#### CHAP. XIV.

SEEMS BIG WITH THE PROMISE OF  
SOME MIGHTY MATTERS HERE-  
AFTER TO BE BROUGHT TO  
LIGHT.

IT was so very late when the little company broke up, that Bellpine had no opportunity of putting any questions to Jemmy concerning his sentiments of the lady he had introduced him to; and as they lived different ways, they took leave of each other at Mr. Chit's door, without any farther speech that night. Full of impatience, however, for the success of his pernicious plot, he went pretty early the next morning to his house; and, according to his wish, found him quite alone, and not yet ready to go abroad. He was scarce sat down when he had the satisfaction of hearing Jemmy himself prepare the way for the conversation he intended to entertain him with, by thanking him for the pleasure he had enjoyed the night before through his means.

'I wish from my soul,' replied this wicked incendiary, 'that it were in my power to procure you a much more ample and substantial one: music indulges no more than a single sense; Miss Chit has charms that might engross the whole five. Ah, Jemmy!' continued he, embracing him, 'what a heaven it would be, after an hour or two of dalliance, to be lulled to sleep by that angelick voice, pressing, at the same time, the ruby lips whence the transporting sounds proceed! and then, ye gods, awake to new raptures and repeated bliss!'

Jemmy laughed heartily at the ecstasy which the other affected to feel through the force of imagination. 'You wish me happiness,' cried he; 'yet speak, methinks, as if you could not avoid being one of those who would envy me the possession of it: but, my dear friend,' added he, 'you have no need to be under any apprehensions on that score; for, to deal sincerely, I like Miss Chit as a musician, but shall never think of her as a woman.'

These words gave a most terrible shock to the high-raised expectations of Bellpine; but, as he was master of an uncommon share of artifice, and an equal presence of mind, it was easy for him to conceal one emotion under the shew of another; and, starting back with a well-counterfeited surprize—'Impossible!' cried he; 'you cannot, sure, be so insensible, so altogether untouched with charms that half the town are running mad after!'

'You know,' answered Jemmy, with a very serious air, 'I am under engagements elsewhere, which will not permit me to make my addresses to her, or any other woman, upon honourable terms; and I cannot suppose they would be accepted by Miss Chit, if offered with a view of a different nature.'

'I cannot flatter you so far as that,' indeed, replied he, still disconcerted; and more so, when Jemmy hastily rejoined—'I wonder, Bellpine, that, having so just a sense of the lady's merit, you never made your court to her yourself?'

On an interrogatory so unthought-on, all his audacity forsook him; he was silent for some moments; but at length recovering himself, his ready wit furnished him with an excuse which seemed plausible enough, and was certainly the only one that could have had the least appearance of sincerity.

'I shall disguise nothing of the truth from you,' said he. 'To be plain, then, it is my vexatious circumstances which alone deter me; since my uncle has taken a step that may possibly deprive me of the inheritance I was born to expect, I have no dowry to offer with my services: a woman that has money demands a jointure adequate to the sum she brings; and for me to marry one whose only portion is her beauty and good qualities, would render both her and myself for ever miserable; so that, whether Miss Chit is or is not a fortune, she is quite out of the question with me as a wife.'

He spoke all this with so much seeming candour and openness of heart, that Jemmy thought himself more than ever confirmed in the opinion he had always entertained of the good sense and honour of his friend; and readily agreed with him, that where a marriage was consummated



consummated between two persons, neither of whom had a sufficient competency, it could not fail of making both parties equally unhappy, and also of entailing lasting wretchedness on their posterity. Bellpine soon grew weary of this discourse, as it had no connexion with his present views; and therefore made his visit much shorter than he at first had intended it, and retired to a place where he might give a loose to his discontent, and contrive some other means of bringing his designs to perfection, since those he had already essayed had proved so ineffectual.

As it was not in his power to make Jemmy become guilty in fact, his next resource was to make him appear so: to blacken him by any ill report directly to Jenny herself, he knew would be in vain, and treated with contempt by a woman of her penetration; he therefore took a more artful and more sure, though slow method of infusing the poison of jealousy and indignation into her soul: he gave it out in whispers, innuendoes, and dark hints, among those whom he found fond of scandal and of explaining mysteries of that kind, that Jemmy had an utter aversion to Jenny in his heart; that he was seeking some excuse to break entirely with her; and that it was Miss Chit who had caused this change in him; he had no great cause to doubt but that this rumour would spread from one to another through the town, and become so much the universal secret, that it could not fail of reaching Jenny's ears; and then he concluded that it would, by degrees, steal itself into her belief.

As Jemmy was a man of pleasure, and did not live without many transient amours, it may seem a little strange to some people that Bellpine, who, by his intimacy with him, could not be a stranger to the errors of his conduct, did not chuse to get communicated to Jenny such things as a very small enquiry would convince her were true, rather than to endeavour to alarm her with reports which had no foundation in fact. But this was not Bellpine's way of reasoning; he rightly judged, that a woman of Jenny's understanding might easily be brought to forgive the frailties of youth and nature in a man of Jemmy's gay and volatile disposition; but would be irrecon-

cilable, implacable, if once made to believe he addressed any other upon honourable terms.

It is easy for persons capable of inventing falsehoods to propagate them in such a manner as to make them pass current for a time, and yet avoid any detection of their being the authors of it: it is not by saying directly a thing is so, that a story so much gains credit, as by half words, winks, nods, and other such like gestures; these are the traps which catch the unwary, and give an air of reality to that which has no existence. Bellpine, at least, was well versed in this art; and practised it with such success as to the matter in question, and was so far from being suspected of having raised this report, that he has often been asked by those who heard from other hands what his opinion was concerning the truth of it.

Jenny, on account of her many accomplishments and good nature, was so generally beloved by those who knew her, and her character in such estimation with those who were personally acquainted with her, that none could hear, without the most extreme surprise, that she was about to be forsaken by a man who, from his very infancy, had been taught to look upon her as his future wife, and for whom she made no secret of having the most tender affection. But whenever this subject was mentioned to Bellpine, as it frequently so happened, he affected to hang down his head and be entirely silent; or, if desired by some one or other of the company to speak his thoughts—'I am no judge of the affair,' would he say: 'Mr. Jessamy is my friend; and I should be loth to think him capable of a bad action. Miss Jenny is certainly a fine girl, and so is Miss Chit: if he has changed his sentiments, he, doubtless, has his reasons; but I know no thing of it.'

His intimacy with Jemmy was so well known, that these indeterminate answers from him gave more credit to the story than the most positive assurances given by any other person could have done. Nor was this all: to give the greater appearance of the truth of what he thought it was so much his interest to have believed, he contrived it so that Jemmy and Miss Chit should frequently be seen together in publick  
F places,

places, though, for the most part, they met without the least design on the side of either of them.

Jemmy, indeed, could not avoid being somewhat accessory in corroborating the aspersions cast upon himself: as he had been introduced to that young lady, and received by her in the manner above-mentioned, the complaisance due to her sex and rank, joined to the pleasure he took in hearing her sing and play, obliged him sometimes to visit her: Bellpine was generally with them; and when he was so, always found some pretext or other to draw them out where he knew there would be people who would not fail to take notice of their being together.

It requires more pains to be a villain than some people may imagine: besides imposing upon Jemmy, and making him act in a manner which shewed his sentiments to the world far different from what they were in reality, Bellpine had also another card to play, which cost him little less contrivance. As he had possessed Miss Chit with a belief that Jemmy was seriously inspired with a passion for her, and knew very well that gentleman's behaviour had not at all been conformable to the assurances he had given her on this account, it behoved him to reconcile this contradiction so as not to leave her any room to suspect the deception he had put upon her. He therefore continued, day by day, to carry her some fresh intelligence of the fine things Jemmy said of her; and insinuated, that there was a design on foot, which, when once executed, would afford him a plausible pretence for breaking off entirely with Jenny; and that then he would avow his passion, and declare himself only devoted to her.

Whether this young lady was absolutely convinced of the truth of what he said, I will not take upon me to determine; because, indeed, it is highly probable he never gave herself the trouble to examine the consistency of the story.

Dangerous, however, might such an imposition have been to some ladies to have been flattered with the hopes of an alliance with a man such as Jemmy, perfectly agreeable in his person, accomplished in his manners, and opulent in his fortune; and then to find at once all those golden expectations vanish into

air, might certainly have been fatal in its consequences to a heart young, tender, and unexperienced in deceit. Happy was it for Miss Chit, in this point at least, that the variety of company, the many fine things said to her by persons of condition, and particularly the devoirs, whether feigned or real, of a certain foreign minister, hindered her from being too attentive to the idea which the artifices of Bellpine might otherwise have engrossed her with.

#### CH A P. XV.

CONTAINS AN EXAMPLE, THAT FOR A WOMAN TO BE TOO GOOD IS NOT ONE OF THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO BE FOUND IN HUMAN LIFE.

**T**HOUGH the foregoing report, begun and industriously propagated by Bellpine, had spread itself through all the acquaintance both of Jemmy and Jenny, yet it did not presently reach the ears of either of them; and they went on, as they had been accustomed to do, communicating to each other every little adventure which fell into the way of each, provided they were such as might be, in any measure, conducive to the important end proposed, that of rectifying or improving their minds.

Among the many they recited to each other, some of which were too trifling to be inserted here, Jemmy happened upon one of a most extraordinary nature, and therefore must not be omitted: it was this.

He had been for some time pretty conversant with a gentleman named Kelsey; he was a man of family, fortune, good-sense, and a very agreeable companion; but one thing was said of him, that, in the opinion of all the discreet part of his acquaintance, tarnished the lustre of all his other qualities, that of his being a very bad husband to a most deserving wife.

This lady, to whom he had been married scarce a year, was very young, beautiful, and had every thing in her person to make her beloved; and was in high estimation for the strictness of her virtue, her piety, and the affability of her behaviour: how could it then but seem strange to Jemmy, that two persons

sons of the characters these bore in the world should not live happily together? He never heard any mention of the disagreement between them, without feeling a kind of painful curiosity for the cause; but he could find none who were able to give him any information in that point, though every one spoke loudly of the effects. Chance at last presented him with the wished-for discovery: a gentleman of distinction, a distant relation of Jemmy's, was to have a private concert at his own house; Jemmy was one of the invited persons, with leave to bring any friend with him whom he should think proper; on which he made choice of Kelsey, and accordingly made a visit to him on the morning of the day appointed, to desire he would accompany him to this entertainment, if not previously engaged to any other.

Mr. Kelsey, thanking him for the obliging offer he had made him, replied, that he had no engagement at all upon his hands: 'But if I had,' said he, 'I should be tempted to break through it, since I am certain none could afford me so much real pleasure as that of waiting on Mr. Jessamy any where; but more especially,' continued he, 'on an occasion so perfectly agreeable to my taste.'

Jemmy, after having made a suitable return to this compliment, was preparing to take leave, and desired that they might meet at White's Chocolate House about six: but the other would not suffer him to depart in this manner; he insisted on his staying to dine with him, and pass the time where he was till the hour arrived in which they should adjourn to a place more agreeable. Jemmy would have excused himself from dining, as he had not the honour, he said, to be known to his lady: to which Mr. Kelsey answered, that his wife was not ignorant of the respect due from her to any of her husband's friends.

The curiosity that Jemmy had for being an eye-witness of a lady's deportment whom he had heard so much of, and as yet had never seen, she seldom appearing in any publick place, prevailed with him at length to comply with her husband's request; they amused themselves with looking over some fine pieces of musick which Mr. Kelsey had that morning brought home in score,

till three o'clock, at which hour he had ordered dinner to be ready.

The clock having struck, that gentleman conducted his guest into the next room, where they found the side-board set out, the cloth laid, the corks of the bottles drawn, and every thing prepared for being served up; but no servant was in waiting; all was hushed and silent as though they had just rose from table, instead of not being as yet set down.

Mr. Kelsey waited some minutes, but at last rung the bell, on which the butler came up; on being asked if dinner was not ready, he replied, with some hesitation, that he would enquire of the cook, and then went hastily away; soon after Mr. Kelsey rung again, and another servant appeared, to whom his master making the same demand as to the former, answered bluntly, that his lady was not yet come out of her closet: 'Go, then, and call her,' said Mr. Kelsey. The fellow went; but returned immediately, and said the door was locked; and though he had both knocked and called could get no answer; on which Mr. Kelsey grew extremely red, and begging pardon of Jemmy for leaving him alone a moment, flew up stairs himself.

Jemmy was very much surprized at all this, but had not time to make any reflections on it. Mr. Kelsey came presently down, followed by his lady, a very lovely woman indeed; but seemed greatly disconcerted. Jemmy advanced to pay her the civilities of a stranger, which, in spite of the confusion she was in, she received with the utmost sweetness and good-breeding; and they all sat down to table. The first course was served up in an instant; the garnishing of the dishes was elegant enough, and inviting to the appetite, as doubtless what they contained would also have been, if not so much prolonged beyond the necessary time. Mr. Kelsey stuck his fork first into one thing and then into another, then threw it down, bit his lips, and seemed in great emotion.

Jemmy could be at no loss to guess the occasion: and, to palliate the discontent he saw him in, helped himself pretty plentifully out of that dish which was nearest to him: but never was any thing so spoiled; the truffles, morelles, artichokes, and other such things as

should embellish the sauce, were in a manner dissolved in it; and the meat itself wanted little of being so too; so that nothing but the bones discovered what it was. Yet Jemmy fell to eating heartily, crying that it was very fine, that it was dressed exactly to his taste; but this politeness in him did not restore the good-humour of his friend; the lady, too, was in some pain on seeing the ill effects which her staying too long in the closet had produced; and, addressing herself to Jemmy—'I am afraid, Sir,' said she, 'that your complaisance at this time gets the better of your sincerity: what is here is very much over-done; but I hope we shall not find every thing so.'

As she ended these words, a servant set a fire here upon the table; and Mr. Kelsey, flattering himself that his wife might be a true prophetess on this occasion, took up his knife and fork once more, in order to carve; but the skin was so dried by being kept at a distance from the fire, that he found some difficulty to penetrate it; and when with much labour he had done so, the flesh beneath fell spontaneously from the bones, and indeed was almost fit for pulverizing. Mr. Kelsey, who was naturally fiery, and apt to kindle on every little provocation, now lost all patience; he flung the dish from him with such a vehemence, that but for the footman's agility in catching it between his hands, it must have fallen on the floor.

The lady, who was all confusion, said she was sorry and ashamed that it had happened so. 'Sdeath, Madam!' cried he, starting from the table, 'does it ever happen otherwise? If you had even common decency, you would not treat me in this manner: can you find no time to pray but when dinner is coming upon table? Must my appetite continually be starved, my peace destroyed, my reputation scandalized, my friends affronted, and all through your unseasonable devotion?'—'It is mighty well, my dear,' replied she, rising; 'it is mighty well: but I shall say no more; it is from Heaven alone that I must seek support, under the ill-humour and intemperance of a husband.' Then turning to Jemmy, asked his pardon for what had passed, and went hastily out of the room with eyes all bathed in tears.

'Would to Heaven I had never seen your face!' cried Mr. Kelsey furiously, and stamping with his foot as she was going out; but he took no notice either of his words or actions, and passed on as fast as she could. He continued walking about the room with gestures which evidently denoted the inward rage he was possessed of, while Jemmy laboured, though for some time in vain, to convince him that he was in the wrong to put himself into such agitations on account of an accident.

'Call it not an accident,' Mr. Jessamy! replied he: 'what you have now been witness of has been almost every day repeated ever since our marriage. Oh!' continued he, almost raving, 'how I could curse the hour, the day, the institution, sacred as it is called, that joined together two such opposites!'

At last, however, the consideration he had for his friend got the better of the resentment he had against his wife; and sitting down again, and, making Jemmy do so also—'I know not,' said he, 'whether I shall ever be forgiven for the rudeness I have been guilty of: you, indeed, suffered too much through the folly of my wife; and I ought not to have prolonged your penance by my ill-humour, notwithstanding the justifiableness of it, had I been alone.'

He then, without waiting for Jemmy's reply, called to the butler, and asked him if there were any cold meats in the house that might supply the deficiency they had sustained; the man on this ran down stairs, and presently returned, followed by another servant with a large ham, of which a very little had been cut. 'Come, my dear friend,' said Mr. Kelsey, 'a cold repast is better than none at all: this we had yesterday, and could not be spoiled, though the chickens about it fell to pieces of themselves, like the hare you just now saw.' He said no more, but fell heartily on the ham before them. Jemmy, who for all his complaisance had made but half a dinner, followed his example; and a dessert, consisting of tarts, patty-patties, jellies, fruits, and such-like things, being afterwards placed upon the table, neither of these gentlemen had any reason to complain of their bad living that day.

When the cloth and servants were withdrawn,



withdrawn, and the bottle and the glasses were the sole witnesses of their conversation, Jemmy, finding the other was now in a disposition to bear it, began now to railly him a little on the subject of his late disquiets. 'Faith!' replied Mr. Kelsey, 'I have a true English stomach of my own, and cannot bear the least disappointment in victuals; and this fervour of devotion takes my wife at such odd periods, that, whether I have company, or am obliged to go out on business at an appointed hour, I never can be certain that dinner will be served according to the time.'

'This unhappy humour in her,' continued he, 'it is that drives me so much abroad; I am compelled by it to entertain my friends at a tavern, to transact all my affairs there; and sometimes, indeed, to refresh my own senses with peace, and a bit of meat dressed as it ought to be. How is it possible I should love home, when the very person in whose power it chiefly is to render it agreeable, exercises that power rather to create disgust than liking? I once loved her; and none but she herself could have weaned my heart from the tender passion I had for her: but, besides, whenever I complain of what you have seen, and some other irregularities in domestic life, she bursts into tears and reproaches; accuses me of unkindness, of intemperance, prophaneness to Heaven, of regarding too much the things of this world, and such like stuff; which, if I fly to avoid, I am at least justified in the poet's words—

"Clamours our privacies uneasy make,  
"Birds leave their nests disturbed, and beasts  
"their haunts forsake."

Jemmy, who could find little to say in the defence of Mrs. Kelsey, and who had too much complaisance and good-nature to say any thing against her, artfully waved the conversation, and started more agreeable subjects; between which and the bottle they passed the time till the hour arrived which called them to the concert. This being an entertainment adapted to the taste of both these gentlemen, it is not to be doubted but the pleasure they received in it atoned for all the mortifications of the preceding day: but, as it presented no-

thing material enough to acquaint the reader with, we shall make no farther mention of it.

## C H A P. XVI.

TREATS ONLY ON SUCH MATTERS AS, IT IS HIGHLY PROBABLE, SOME READERS WILL BE APT TO SAY MIGHT HAVE BEEN RECITED IN A MORE LACONICK MANNER, IF NOT TOTALLY OMITTED; BUT AS THERE ARE OTHERS, THE AUTHOR IMAGINES MUCH THE GREATER NUMBER, WHO MAY BE OF A DIFFERENT OPINION, IT IS JUDGED PROPER THAT THE MAJORITY SHOULD BE OBLIGED.

JEMMY, to whom the riddle of Mr. Kelsey's disagreement with his wife was now fully explained, no sooner found himself at home, and alone, than he began to make the serious reflections both on the accident he had been witness of, and the real source from whence such unfortunate effects were originally derived.

'It is not,' said he within himself, 'youth, beauty, wealth, or even a mutual affection in the parties before marriage, that is sufficient to constitute their happiness, when once entered into that state: neither Mr. Kelsey nor his wife are wanting in any of those endowments or accomplishments which one would think necessary to endear them to each other; yet how miserable are they! It must therefore be, that a conformity of principles, a parity of sentiments and humours, and a certain sympathy of soul, ought to be the first links in the hymeneal chain; and, without them, all the others fall to the ground, and have no power to bind.'

'I think,' continued he, 'that my friend has every requisite for making a good husband, were it his lot to have been united to a woman of his own gay temper; and the lady, who now creates such uneasiness both to herself and him, would certainly have made no less excellent a wife, had she been married to an enthusiast. On reasoning farther, under various discontents that so frequently disturb the felicity of conjugal life, he concluded,

cluded, that good-nature and similitude of disposition, though the last things considered, and seldom, if ever, enquired into, by the persons about to be united, were, indeed, the chief ingredients to make their future happiness.

These considerations led him into an examination of Jenny's behaviour, even from her infancy, with much greater attention than ever he had done before; and the more he did so now, the less he could find to wish were changed: nothing had ever appeared in her which seemed to him to stand in need of the least rectification; she had never betrayed a too strong attachment to any one thing; no caprice, no whimsical flights, no affectation, no pride of exciting the envy of her own sex, or of giving pain to those of the other. In her words and actions she preserved the happy medium of neither being too gay and giddy, nor too sullen and reserved: nor was all this mere outward shew; he could not suspect her of disguise, as he had known her before she could arrive at the power, even if she had the will, of pretending to be other than she really was.

Though he was in no haste to be married, yet, as he intended nothing more than being so, one time or other, great cause he had to thank Heaven for being so peculiarly propitious in the lot ordained for him: nor was he insensible or ungrateful for the bounty, and had so true an esteem and affection for his dear Jenny, that we may almost give it to the reader for a certainty, that no temptation whatever could have made him entertain the least thought of any other woman for a wife.

He went pretty early the next morning to her apartment, which he seldom failed to do, when he had no farther business than to give her the *bon jour*; but never when he had any thing to communicate in relation to the agreement made between them: he knew, indeed, that she had very little occasion for any lessons of improvement from the faults of others; but he took an infinite pleasure in hearing the judicious observations she always made on every occasion that presented itself to her. He met her at the door; her chair waited, and she was just ready to step into it. 'You are going out, I perceive,' said he; 'and I will not detain you.'—'Indeed but you shall,'

replied she; 'I was only going to chapel, which I can do as well in the afternoon.'

'But how,' rejoined he, 'shall I answer to myself for being an impediment to any act of religion?'—'Religion,' cried she, 'does not enjoin us to be rude or unkind to our friends; and I know not if a just observance of the duties of social life be not a more acceptable sacrifice to the Deity than all the oraisons our lips can utter.' She said no more; but, having dismissed the chairman, made Jemmy go up stairs; where she instantly followed him. As soon as they were sat down—'I dined yesterday,' said he, smiling, 'with a lady who would have thought herself guilty of the extreme impiety and prophaneness to have shewn half that complaisance to her husband which I have just now received from you.'

'She must then have very little affection for him indeed,' replied Jenny; 'and also be equally ignorant of the laws of the institution by which, as I take it, she is bound to oblige and to obey him in all reasonable things.' 'But I see,' continued she, 'by your countenance, that you are big with some new intelligence; so, pray, do not delay letting me have it.'

Jemmy then made her an exact recital of the entertainment he had met with at Mr. Kelsey's; the brulée between the husband and the wife; the impatience of the one, and the provocation given for it by the other. Jenny laughed heartily at the beginning of the story, but grew more grave towards the latter end of it; and, perceiving he had concluded, gave her sentiments on what he had been telling her in these terms.

'Can any one take this for piety?' said she. 'I would not be so uncharitable as to think Mrs. Kelsey an hypocrite; but, certainly, such a behaviour has nothing in it of the air of true devotion!' To which he replied, that he must do her justice to believe, from what he could gather from the discourse he had afterwards with her husband, who was not in a disposition to be more favourable than the occasion required, that all the mistakes she is guilty of proceed entirely from too warm a zeal in what she thinks the duties of religion.

'There are hours enough,' said she,

to be spent in prayer, without breaking in upon those which the œconomy of the family requires. I am far from depreciating religious worship; but there are times for all things: and Mrs. Kelsey makes choice of such as are so utterly improper, as, if it really arises from piety, renders it, in my opinion, such a kind of piety as has little merit in it. I am rather afraid," continued she, after a pause, "that, through sloth, and a certain indolence in nature, she neglects paying that tribute to Heaven which is due from every reasonable creature at fit times; and at length, remembering her omission, runs to wipe off one fault by committing a still greater: for I would fain know, whether driving a husband to the extremes you say Mr. Kelsey is guilty of, be not a much worse error than even not praying at all? For my part," added she, with a more gay air, "I should have no notion of saving my own soul by doing what would infallibly ruin another's; especially that of a person in whose happiness, both here and hereafter, I ought to take so great an interest."

Jemmy had a very high regard both for the mysteries and duties of revealed religion; though, like most other gay gentlemen of his age, he was little practised in the rules: but, had he been a more strict observer of church discipline, he could not well have disapproved of the sentiments Jenny had declared. He told her she had argued like a casuist; and that he was sure there was never a clergyman in England but must agree with her on this point.

"I do not know that," answered she; "but, I can tell you, I durst not speak in the manner I have done, without thinking I had sufficient authority for it, from a little account given to my father, by a very learned and worthy divine, of one of his parishioners. I was very young when I heard it; but, as it made a lasting impression on my mind, if you will afford me your attention, I will repeat it." Jemmy having assured her she would confer a very great obligation on him by so doing, she went on with her discourse in this manner.

"The reverend gentleman I have mentioned," said she, "was not only

an excellent preacher, but also an excellent man; all his actions were so many precepts, and his example a kind of living law: for there was no virtue which he laboured to inspire in others that he did not, in the highest degree, put in practice himself. He frequently favoured my father with his company," continued she: "they were extremely intimate; and, when the two good old gentlemen got together, there never was a gap in conversation. One evening, in particular, he came to our house; and my father, who was at church that day, and found a very thin congregation, was beginning to lament to him the decay of religion; to which the doctor replied in these terms; I think I remember his very words: "Aye, Mr. Jessamy!" said he, "I am afraid indeed, that religion is at a very low ebb at this time; but we must not always impute the want of it to those who we do not see constantly at public worship, even though we should know they were not detained from it by any infirmity either of mind or of body: there are a thousand accidents which may intervene, and withhold them from the discharge of this duty; nay, in some cases, it may so happen that it is laudable to be absent. You look surprized, Mr. Jessamy," continued he, perceiving my father did so; "but I can easily convince you of the truth of what I say. I came now from visiting a lady, who, till within this month, or thereabouts, has not been at church for near seven years; though, before that time, nobody more constantly attended: and yet I firmly believe that there is not a better and more pious woman in the world."

"These last words were far from lessening the astonishment my father had been in from the beginning of this discourse; but he would not interrupt the doctor; who went on thus.

"To ease you of that suspense which, I find, I have raised in you," said he, "know, Mr. Jessamy, that this excellent lady flew not from divine service to pursue the pleasures of the town, nor to gratify any sensual inclination of her own; but to shut herself up in a close room with an aged parent, who, pressed beneath  
" the

“ the weight of years and infirmities,  
 “ unable to go out herself, and equally  
 “ unwilling to receive any visits from  
 “ those who knew her in a more sanguine state, had no consolation but  
 “ in the dutiful cares of this beloved  
 “ daughter, who was continually employed about her, administering every  
 “ thing in her power for her relief.”—  
 “ It is impossible for me,” said Jenny, pursuing the thread of her discourse,  
 “ to remember half the encomiums he  
 “ made on this act of filial piety: but  
 “ this I know, that I have ever since  
 “ been fully convinced, that, while we  
 “ are here upon earth, all the prayers  
 “ we can make to Heaven will be insufficient to atone for neglecting to  
 “ discharge, as well as is in our power,  
 “ the duties of our several stations.”

Jemmy was now about to tell her how much his opinion, in this point, coincided with what she had delivered; but she happened to be in a very talkative humour; and this being a subject which, in her serious moments, had frequently occurred to her, she would not quit it for the sake of hearing any praises given to herself.

“ There are some people,” resumed she, “ who are hypocrites without knowing themselves that they are so; they fast, they pray incessantly; they are abundant in giving to charitable uses, and do many other great and laudable actions; but then they do them not so much for the sake of the religion that enjoins us to do all the good we can, as for the sake of gratifying their own vanity in being able to perform more than their neighbours.”—“ This is ostentation,” cried Jemmy, interrupting her; “ and I am afraid that too many of those great actions, so hyperbolically extolled in panegyrick, if searched into the bottom, would be found to proceed from no other source.”—“ Ostentation,” answered she, “ is different from the propensity I mean. Ostentation, as I take it, is rather an ambition of appearing better in the eyes of others than we either are, or will take any pains to be; in fact: but what I am speaking of is an innate triumph of the heart; a mental exultation within ourselves in the imagination that we, in reality, excel other people; and this, I think, may be called a spiritual pride. I have heard such strange stories, continued Jenny, “ such unaccountable instances, in relation to this same spiritual pride among the nuns abroad, as I should have looked upon to have been mere inventions to depreciate and ridicule that way of worship, if they had not been solemnly averred to me by a lady who is herself a Roman Catholic, was two years a pensioner in a monastery at Paris, and an eye-witness of the truth of what she said.”

Here she was preparing to repeat some of those particulars which the lady had made her acquainted with; but was prevented by a servant who came into the room to call her down to dinner: on which Jemmy, as she was a boarder, took his leave, probably with less reluctance if the subject they had been engaged in had happened to be one of a more entertaining nature. Nor will the reader find any reason to be greatly dissatisfied at the breaking off a conversation which could be little improving, as an excess of devotion is not among the reigning errors of the present times.

#### C H A P. XVII.

WILL IN ALL LIKELIHOOD APPEAR, TO THE GREATEST PART OF OUR READERS, A GOOD DEAL MORE INTERESTING THAN THE FORMER.

AFTER that conversation which had engrossed the whole of the preceding Chapter, a multiplicity of engagements, of one sort or other, so took up Jemmy's time, that he could not find one hour to visit his beloved and most-deserving mistress for three days successively; but on the evening of the latter, he found, on his coming home, a little billet from her, which had been left for him in the afternoon; the contents whereof were as follow:

“ TO JAMES JESSAMY, ESQ.

“ DEAR JEMMY,  
 “ A Proposal has been made to me, which, before I accept of, I am desirous to acquaint you with. If this is so fortunate as to find you at home, shall be glad of seeing you this evening; if not, expect you will not fail of calling on me in the morning



as early as you can; because I have promised to give my final answer some time to-morrow. I am, with all sincerity, dear Jemmy, yours, &c. &c.

‘J. JESSAMY.’

On the first mention of this billet, after an absence of so unusual a length between these two lovers, when in the same town together, I dare believe that many of my female readers expect to find it filled either with reproaches or complaints; or, perhaps, with a mixture of both; but Jenny was of a different complexion from the generality of her sex; she could love without anxiety; and, glad as she was whenever she saw the object of her passion, was never angry or unhappy when she saw him not. If all women could bring themselves to behave in the manner Jenny did, I cannot but think they would find their account in it, not only in the tranquillity of their own minds, but also in rendering more permanent the affection of the man they loved: doubts, suspicions, and jealousies, though arising from a tender cause, frequently hurry the person possessed of them into such furious marks of resentment, as, if the lover has the least inclination to break off, gives him a fair pretence of doing so.

The guilty heart, which, perhaps, might be in time reclaimed by its own consciousness of being in the wrong, is often hardened by upbraidings; there is a certain pride and obstinacy in some natures which will not bear reproof, and makes them persist in the errors which themselves condemn, only because they are condemned by others. But if the man who knows he justly merits all the reproaches he can be loaded with, can so ill endure rebuke, how shall the innocent, the faithful lover, support it? To be accused of a crime his very apprehension shudders at, to be treated by the woman he adores with a sullen coldness, and with causeless testimonies of suspicion, must give him the most poignant inquietude: and though he may submit to it at first, and be even pleased, as imagining such a behaviour an indication of the most tender passion in his mistress; yet, when he finds all his endeavours to calm the tempest in her soul are fruitless, he will at last, especially if he is a man of sense and spi-

rit, be wearied out; as the poet truly says—

‘Small jealousies, indeed, enflame desire;  
‘Too great not fan, but quite put out the fire.’

Or as another, in my opinion, more emphatically expresses his sense of the matter—

‘Tis just, when doubts without foundation  
‘grow,  
‘Those who believe us false should find us so.’

But I have seen too much how far the power of jealousy, a passion truly called the poison of love, operates on a female mind, not to be sensible, that all the advice I can give on this occasion will be entirely thrown away; and that I have more reason to ask pardon of my fair readers for this digression, than to flatter myself they will be any way profited by it. To return to the business of my history: it was too late when Jemmy received the above-mentioned summons from his mistress to attend her that night, but he complied with it very early the next morning, according to her request; and, indeed, much sooner than she could reasonably have expected he would have been stirring. He found her encompassed with trunks and band-boxes, and very busy in packing up her apparel: ‘You have found me preparing for a journey,’ cried she; ‘which, notwithstanding, I would neither resolve upon, nor promise to take, without receiving your approbation of it.’—‘You surprize me!’ said he: ‘a journey! and wait for my approbation of it!’—‘Yes,’ replied she; ‘it was to that end I sent for you in such a hurry: but sit down, and I will tell you all.’ Jemmy then took a chair; and, she placing herself in another opposite to him, began as follows.

‘You must know,’ said she, ‘that I dined yesterday, by invitation, at Lady Speck’s; her sister, Mrs. Wingman, was with her; they are both going to Bath to-morrow, and were very urgent with me to accompany them. As I never saw that place, and have heard so much of it, I must confess I should be well enough pleased to go with them thither; especially when I have the opportunity of being escorted by three or four stout fellows with  
‘fire.’

‘fire-arms, by way of defence from the gentlemen-collectors on the road.’—‘I know,’ replied Jemmy, ‘that Lady Speck will abate nothing that she thinks becoming her quality, and always travels in a genteel manner. And so you set out to-morrow?’—‘I do not tell you I shall set out at all,’ answered she; ‘for I am not yet determined.’ Jemmy then asked her on what motive she hesitated. ‘Can you not guess?’ cried she, looking kindly on him. ‘No, upon my honour!’ said he. ‘Then you are not so just to me as you ought to be,’ returned she gravely: ‘you might have thought I would agree to nothing of this nature, without having first consulted you.’

‘Me!’ cried Jemmy; ‘did you not tell me you should like to go?’—‘Yes,’ replied she; ‘but, as I suppose, according to the footing on which we now stand, that it will be my duty hereafter to submit my inclinations to the regulation of your will, I thought it proper to give you a previous sample how easy it will be for me to do so. In fine, my dear Jemmy, I will not go without your consent; nor even without your approbation.’

‘This is indeed a proof of tenderness,’ cried he, ‘which I could not expect, nor can any way deserve, unless it be by joining my entreaties with the ladies, that you will not refuse their request.’ In speaking these words he rose from his seat, and snatched her to his arms with an infinity of transport and affection. ‘Then you are willing,’ said she, returning him his embrace, ‘to part with me for the long space of six or seven weeks at least; for they do not purpose to return sooner.’

‘I will not pretend to be so much the master of myself,’ said he, still holding her by the hand, ‘as to be perfectly content during such a separation as you have mentioned; but I can see no reason to put my patience to so severe a trial; I might follow you directly, but it happens unluckily that my steward, whom I have sent for, comes to town to-morrow, and the affairs I have to settle with him will detain me for some days: but I believe I may flatter myself with seeing my dear Jenny at Bath within a fortnight at the very farthest.’—‘May I then expect you?’ cried she, with a

voice which expressed the utmost satisfaction. ‘You may not only expect, but depend upon my coming,’ answered he: ‘you have the greatest security for it that is in nature, which is that of my own inclination. Believe me, my dear Jenny, that I never was easy when absent from you for any length of time; the thoughts of you still mingled with all the little sports and recreations of my childhood; and now, when riper years have made me more truly sensible of the perfections you are mistress of, I feel it would be an utter impossibility to live without seeing you.’

She answered these fond expressions with others no less endearing; after which she told him, that, since he agreed to her going, and had promised to follow, she would send immediately, and let Lady Speck know she should be ready to attend her ladyship next morning. Jemmy then left her to do as she had said, and went home to dress; but returned in the evening, and staid supper with her, when nothing passed of consequence enough to trouble the reader with, except his renewing the assurances he before had given her of seeing her at Bath as soon as his business was dispatched.

#### C H A P. XVIII.

CONTAINS A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF JENNY'S JOURNEY TO BATH; AND ALSO SOME PASSAGES WHICH HAPPENED ON HER ARRIVAL THERE.

JENNY thought she had all the reason imaginable to be pleased with this excursion, not only in the gratification of her curiosity in the sight of a place she had heard so much of, but also in the society of the company she went with; of whose characters it is highly proper to give the reader some account.

Lady Speck had been the wife of a person of distinction, whom she lost in the first year of their marriage; but as love had not been in the least consulted by either party in the formation of that union, so grief had for his death little effect, either on the delicacy of her complexion, or the sprightliness of her humour: she had also some consolations which many widows want; for, besides

a very

a very large jointure settled on her by her marriage-articles, she was now in possession of an estate of near two thousand pounds a year, by the demise of an uncle. The age of this lady did not exceed twenty-five; Miss Wingman, who was her sister by her mother's side, was six or seven years younger, and a great heiress; both of them had a great deal of wit and vivacity; but though they saw all the gay company in the town, and conversed freely, neither of them had been guilty of any thing that could call their conduct in question, or cast a blemish on their reputations. These ladies, to whose characters I should also have added that of their being very agreeable in their persons, could not fail of attracting a great number of admirers; and as their going to Bath was no secret, those who were most eager to prove the sincerity of their attachment, thought they could not do it in a better way than by following them.

But there were two who distinguished themselves from all the rest of their competitors, by a particular act of knight-errantry: these were Mr. Lovegrove and Lord Huntley; the one had for some time made his addresses to Lady Speck, and the other either was, or pretended to be, passionately devoted to her sister. These gentlemen, who were intimate friends, and the confidants of each other's passion, contrived a little plot of love and gallantry between them, the idea of which gave them as much pleasure as they doubted not but their mistresses would receive in the execution of it. Having taken care to inform themselves as exactly as possible of the time in which the ladies were to set out, they left London some hours sooner, and arrived at Maidenhead early enough to accomplish what they had projected. They put up at the first great inn in the town; and, having given orders for a very elegant dinner to be prepared, posted themselves in a room that looked towards the road, that they might be ready to intercept the ladies, in case they should not intend to bait at this place.

This precaution was necessary, for Lady Speck's Jehu was driving furiously on, as they generally do when passing through any town or village where they have not orders to stop. The gentlemen saw them at a distance, and immediately sallied out. Lord Huntley's

two servants laid hold of the bridles of the fore-horses, and one of Mr. Lovegrove's with an authoritative voice called to the coachman to draw back the reins; their principals, at the same time, advanced at the coach door, and accosted those within it in these terms: 'We arrest you, ladies, in the name of Love,' said Lord Huntley; 'that god, so universally obeyed, has commissioned us, his faithful votaries, to stop your farther progress without his special leave.'—'Ceres and Bacchus are two of the party,' added Mr. Lovegrove; 'and it would be in vain for you to think of resisting their united influence.'

That momentary surprize which the ladies were in at the first stoppage of their coach, vanished on the sight of the persons who had occasioned it; and Lady Speck, who happened to sit on that side where they were, answered with a great deal of spirit—'We have no thing to do with the mischievous little deity; but as to Ceres and Bacchus, they are beneficent powers, and I think we ought to shew them some complaisance.—What say you, ladies?' continued she, turning to her sister and Miss Jessamy; the latter of whom being wholly unacquainted with the gentlemen, made no reply, nor indeed had the time; for Miss Wingman presently took up the word, and said—'Nay, sister, I think we have no choice to make; we are taken prisoners, and must submit to the laws of the conquerors.'

The coach-door was then opened, the ladies were handed out, and conducted into a room, where they found the table-cloth laid, and side-board set forth with as much elegance and propriety as if they had been in their own houses; but as they came somewhat sooner than the gentlemen expected, Mr. Lovegrove left Lord Huntley to entertain them for a moment, while he went down to give orders for hastening dinner. As he was returning from this little expedition, a post-chaise, attended by one servant, came galloping into the yard of the inn; the person who alighted from it was Sir Robert Manley, a very great acquaintance of Mr. Lovegrove's; they immediately saw each other, and mutually advanced with open arms. On putting the question to each other concerning the rout they were pursuing, Love-

grove related, in a few words, the method Lord Huntley and himself had taken to ingratiate themselves into the favour of their mistresses.

'You are happy fellows,' said Sir Robert, smiling. 'I am for Bath too; but you see how forlorn and solitary my journey will be in comparison of yours, who carry along with you those pleasures I am obliged to go in search of.' Mr. Lovegrove then told him, there was a third lady in company; 'Who, young and handsome as she is,' said he, 'is like to have but a dull time of it, as my lord and I have our particular attachments; therefore, if I could prevail on you to join us, we should be all right, and more at liberty to indulge our several inclinations.'—'I understand you,' replied the baronet; 'and was never backward in my life to come to the relief of a distressed fair-one. I shall find something or other to say to her, while you are entertaining your mistresses.' On this the other proposed that he should prosecute his journey with them in Lord Huntley's landau; to which he also agreeing, discharged in the same instant the post-chaise that had brought him thither, and they went up stairs together to join the company.

'I have staid a long time,' said Mr. Lovegrove, presenting Sir Robert; 'but I have brought my excuse in my hand.' This gentleman was particularly known to Lord Huntley, and no stranger to Lady Speck and her sister, and was received by them with all imaginable demonstrations of satisfaction; but Jenny, not having the least personal acquaintance with him, said no more than what bare civility demanded from her to a man of his rank and character. The conversation, during the time of dinner, becoming extremely gay and spirited, our young heroine bore a part in it with so much wit and vivacity, which, added to her other charms, could not fail of captivating almost any heart not already strongly prepossessed in favour of another object; his lordship and Mr. Lovegrove were defended, not only by the ideas, but also by the presence, of their mistresses; but what the heart of Sir Robert Manley felt on the sudden rush of such united perfections will very shortly be discovered.

It would be quite needless to tell the

reader that the table was elegantly served, for no one can suppose that gentlemen who had taken so much pains to acquire an opportunity of entertaining their mistresses, would omit any thing for that purpose which the place they were in was capable of furnishing. The same spirit of gallantry continued during the whole journey: wherever they baited, which was as often as any agreeable prospect invited, the ladies had nothing to pay, either for themselves, their servants, or their horses. As they travelled very leisurely, they found, on their arrival at Bath, their women-attendants, who had come down with their luggage in the stage-coach, had been there some hours before them, and prepared every thing necessary for their reception at the lodgings which Lady Speck had previously taken care to secure.

It being towards evening when they came into the town, the gentlemen, after seeing their fair companions safe into their apartments, withdrew, on pretence of leaving them to take that repose which the delicacy of their constitutions might require; but, in reality, to go about the execution of a project they had all three been concerting on the road, and which they imagined would give the ladies a second surprize, no less agreeable than the former. They had been told there were a company of players, and a tolerable good band of musick, at that time in town; and as these people were to be employed for what they had designed, they went directly to the theatre, and hired such as they found most fit for their purpose; which was no other than to compliment the ladies, on their arrival, in a manner altogether new and unexpected.

Lord Huntley, who was a native of the kingdom of Ireland, had brought over with him a little musical interlude, which had been exhibited at a marriage-feast where his lordship had been a guest. As they were upon the subject of gallantry, he proposed to Mr. Lovegrove to entertain the ladies with this piece, by way of giving them their welcome to Bath, in case they should be able to procure people to perform the parts. The personages which composed the drama, were Love, Honour, and Pleasure. Mr. Lovegrove was charmed with the thought; and Sir Robert Manley



Manley said, that nothing could be more suitably adapted to the design they were at present upon.

The play-house, as I have already said, supplied them with performers better than they could even have hoped for in that place: a flaxen-haired boy, with sparkling eyes, cheeks which imitated the new-blown rose, and an admirable voice, was chosen to represent the God of Soft Desires. A man of a most graceful aspect, and who had great skill in musick, was to appear in the character of Honour. A very beautiful young woman, and who also sung well, was to assume the name of Pleasure; and seemed, by her looks and manner, to be capable of giving a very just idea of the character she bore.

These people, properly habited and equipped for the several parts they were to act, and attended by musicians with various kinds of instruments, were all placed in a close arbour, at the farther end of the garden belonging to the house where the ladies lodged; the mistress of which Lord Huntley had acquainted with the design of surprizing the ladies with a morning's entertainment, and conducted them in through a back-door with secrecy, according to the directions given her by his lordship. Every thing being thus prepared, a servant was dispatched to the ladies, with the compliments of Lord Huntley, Mr. Lovegrove, and Sir Robert Manley; and entreating permission to wait on them, which being granted, they all immediately went; the latter of these gentlemen having, perhaps, as strong an attachment to be of the party as either of the former.

Scarce were the first salutations over when the concert began with an overture of wind and string instruments, accompanied with an harpsichord: the ladies started—'Bless me!' cried one, 'what is this?'—'Musick,' cried another; 'and so near us! where can it come from?'—'The sounds,' said Mr. Lovegrove, 'seem to me to proceed from behind the house.'—'Certainly it is so,' rejoined Lord Huntley. 'I fancy, ladies, you will hear it more distinctly in the next room.' In speaking these words, without staying for permission to do so, he threw open the folding-doors, and they all ran in. But how prodigiously were the fair audience surprized, when, on drawing

up the curtains, they saw the garden planted on each side with musicians, who all, at the sight of them, bowed with the most profound reverence almost to the earth, in token that it was to them their present labours were devoted.

'What can this mean?' said Lady Speck. 'Here are those coming,' replied Mr. Lovegrove, 'who I believe will explain the mystery.' There was time for no more on either side; Honour rushed forth from his leafy covert, conducting little Cupid by the hand, and both advanced together to the middle of the alley; where, after making their obeisance to the windows, they began a duet, expressing the advantages each of them received by the fellowship of the other. Love confessed that his darts carried gall instead of honey into the heart they reached, when not under the direction of Honour; and Honour acknowledged, he never appeared so truly amiable as when accompanied by Love. They had no sooner ceased than Pleasure came tripping out, and told them, in a cantata, whenever the two were united, the must necessarily follow with all the sweets of Nature. They made her suitable answers in recitativo. After which the whole was concluded with a grand chorus.

This entertainment had all the effect that could be wished for by the contrivers of it: Jenny was charmed with the elegance of the design; Miss Wingman with the words; and Lady Speck with the musick; in fine, they all seemed to vie with each other in giving the greatest praises to it. While they were thus expressing their satisfaction, the gentlemen put their heads out of the window; and Lord Huntley, in the name of the rest, said to the actors—'We shall see you this evening at the theatre, and make our acknowledgments for the trouble we have given you: in the mean time, you may carry with you the glory of knowing your performance has been approved of by the finest ladies in the world.'

On this the players, after making a low bow to the company, retired, and were conducted out of the garden, by the gentlewoman of the house, through the same gate by which they had entered. A piece of gallantry, so flattering to the vanity of the young and gay, could not but receive from Lady Speck and her sister all the retributions it demanded

ed from them; and Jenny, though far from thinking herself a party interested in it, said a thousand fine things in it's praise.

Charmed as the lovers were with the gracious acceptance their mistresses vouchsafed to what they had done, their politeness reminded them that they had already transgressed the usual boundaries of a morning's visit; therefore they took leave till a more convenient hour of the day should permit them to return.

### CHAP. XIX.

TREATS OF MANY THINGS, WHICH, THOUGH THEY MAY SEEM AT PRESENT LESS AFFECTING THAN SOME OTHERS, YET ARE VERY NECESSARY FOR THE READER TO BE ACQUAINTED WITH BEFORE WE PROCEED FARTHER INTO THE HISTORY.

**Y**OUTH, beauty, and wit, have deservedly a very powerful influence over the human heart; and every day's experience obliges us to own, that wealth, without the aid of any of these, is of itself sufficient to captivate; it supplies all other defects; it smooths the wrinkles of fourscore; it shapes deformity into comeliness, and gives graces to idiotism itself; as it is said by the inimitable Shakespeare—

- ‘Gold! yellow, glittering, precious gold!
- ‘Gold! that will make black white; foul
- ‘fair; wrong right;
- ‘Base noble; old young; cowards valiant!’

But when the gifts of nature are joined with those of fortune, how strong is the attraction! How irresistible is the force of such united charms! According to the words of the humorous poet—

- ‘Hence ’tis, no lover has the power
- ‘T’ enforce a desperate amour;
- ‘As he that has two strings to his bow,
- ‘And burns for love and money too.’

We ought not therefore, methinks, to judge with too much severity on the vanity of a fine lady; who seeing herself perpetually surrounded with a crowd of lovers, each endeavouring to excel

all his rivals in the most extravagant demonstrations of affection, can hardly believe she deserves not some part, at least, of the admiration she receives. But what pretence soever we may make to excuse the weakness of exulting in a multiplicity of lovers, it is still a weakness which all imaginable care ought to be taken to subdue; as it may draw on the most fatal consequences both on the admirers and admired. What duels have been fought, what torrents of blood have been shed, in the mad-brained fury of jealous rivalry! And how often have we seen the idol-fair herself, who lately triumphed in the pains she gave, neglected in her turn! deserted and abandoned to the last despair!

But this is only for such whom it may concern; the ladies I am at present speaking of were of a different stamp. Lady Speck had something of a pretty, particular nature, both in her humour and her character, as the reader will hereafter be informed: in the mean time, he must content himself with a small sketch of both.

She liked a freedom of conversation with the men, but then she liked that conversation should be general; she took neither pride nor pleasure in the particular devoirs of those who professed themselves her lovers; and the encouragement she gave to the addresses of Lovegrove and others, was not the effect of any coquetry in her disposition, but was occasioned merely by her policy, as she thought such a behaviour would be the best means to conceal a secret inclination she had entertained in favour of one; which inclination many reasons forbade her to make known, or even to be guessed at.

Miss Wingman was of a humour so very volatile, that it was quite out of her power to think seriously for a minute together on any one thing whatever; and love the least of all took up her attention. Always pleased, always happy, she neither plumed herself on the new conquests she acquired, nor regretted the loss of those slaves who, weary of their bondage, shook off her chains. As for the heroine of this history, her early engagement with Jemmy was so well known, that it had hitherto defended her from all attacks, either to put her constancy to the trial, or shew the world in what manner she would

would behave amidst a plurality of lovers.

But now the time was come in which this young lady was to give most substantial proofs, not only of her affection and fidelity to the man whom she looked upon ordained to be her husband, but also of her generosity and gratitude to those for whose passion she had it not either in her power or inclination to make an adequate return. As all the arts of love and wit were put in practice by Lord Huntley and Mr. Lovegrove, in the court they made to their respective mistresses, Sir Robert Manley thought it would ill become a man of his years and character to let a fine lady sit neglected by, especially one so deserving as Jenny was of all that could be said in her praise.

But though the compliments he entertained her with had at first no other foundation than mere gallantry, yet the manner in which she received them, and the answers she gave, were such as would have rendered it impossible for him to have withstood the charms of her tongue, even had he been unsuspicious to those of her eyes. In fine, none of the perfections she was endowed with were lost upon him; he soon found the full effects of a passion he had been only sporting with; and might say, with Cowley—

'Unhurt, untouch'd, did I complain,  
'And terrify'd all others with my pain;  
'But now I feel the mighty evil,  
'Ah, there's no fooling with the devil!  
'In things where fancy much does reign,  
'Tis dangerous too cunningly to feign;  
'The play at last a truth does grow,  
'And custom into nature go.'

Love, though it may be counterfeited so as not to be, without great penetration, discovered to be false, cannot, wherever it is sincere, be wholly concealed. Sir Robert's two friends perceived the change in him before he was quite assured of it himself; they were a little pleasant with him on the occasion; but, at the same time, acknowledged that the beauty and merit of Miss Jenny Jessamy demanded all the respect that could be paid. Sir Robert, on this, readily confessed that he had never seen a young lady whose person and accomplishments gave a more fair prospect of making compleatly happy the man who should possess her: 'But,

said he, 'I have been told somewhat of an engagement she is under; and should be sorry to appear either unjust in attempting to invade the property of another, or so weak as to give up my heart entirely, without a possibility of having it well received.'

Lord Huntley and Mr. Lovegrove were neither of them ignorant of what he meant: but the former having heard, in casual conversation, some of those whispers which the artifices of Bell-pine had circulated through almost all companies, cried hastily out—'If a match between Miss Jenny and a young heir of her own name be the sole impediment to your making your addresses to her, I believe I may venture to assure you, from very good hands, that it is quite broke off; and that, for some time, they have neither regarded nor treated each other with any thing more than a bare civility.'—'Your lordship's intelligence,' said Mr. Lovegrove, 'seems to me agreeable to reason on the nature of the thing. The marriage was agreed upon by their parents before the young people were capable of judging for themselves; and, as now they are arrived at years of maturity, I see no cause, except a disinclination on the one side or the other, for delaying the consummation of what was so long ago projected.'

People easily believe what they wish; and, indeed, there was so much appearance of reason in the inference Mr. Lovegrove had drawn, that it is not to be wondered at that the young baronet readily gave into it. But he was still better satisfied, when, after having declared how happy he should think himself in an assurance of Jenny's heart being disengaged, Mr. Lovegrove told him, that, since he found he was so serious in the affair, he would speak to Lady Speck, and endeavour to come at the certainty.

'And I,' cried Lord Huntley, 'will find Miss Wingman on the occasion: I believe she will make no scruple to inform what she knows of it; and, as she is nearer to her own years than her sister, may be supposed to be yet deeper in her secrets and confidants.' It would be superfluous to repeat the many retributions Sir Robert made to the gentlemen on the friendly part they took in his interest;

so I shall only say they were such as became the mouth of a man very much in love, and who scorned to make use of any dishonourable or ungenerous means for the attainment of his wishes.

#### CHAP. XX.

##### IS TAKEN UP WITH A CONVERSATION OF VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE.

**N**EITHER Lady Speck nor her sister were ignorant of those reports which had been so maliciously spread concerning a change in the sentiments of Jemmy; they had heard it averred, by several of their acquaintances, as a thing past all dispute: but, as their fair friend had never made them the confidants of her imaginary misfortune, they thought it too tender and delicate a point to be touched upon in her presence, and had always carefully avoided giving her the least hint that they had been told of such a thing. It was owing, however, merely to the esteem and friendship they had towards her, that had induced them to persuade her to accompany them to Bath, believing that the pleasures of that place might keep her from resenting, too deeply, an indignity which few women are able to support with patience.

Regarding her in the affectionate manner they did, it could not but afford them a deal of satisfaction to be informed by Lord Huntley and Mr. Lovegrove of the new conquest he had made; judging, as they reasonably might, that the offer of a heart, such as that of Sir Robert Manley, would fully compensate for the loss they supposed she had sustained by the infidelity of Jemmy. Both these ladies assured not only their lovers, but Sir Robert himself, of the part they took in his interest; and that they would lay hold of the first opportunity to speak to Jenny on the affair, in such terms as should seem to them most effectual to convince her that she ought not to slight a proposal which could not but prove for her honour and advantage to accept.

They were punctual to their promise. The next morning, as they were sitting all together at breakfast, Lady Speck introduced what she intended to insinuate, by making some observations on

the temper and behaviour of mankind in general; till, by degrees, she fell insensibly, as it were, and without seeming to have any design, into very great commendations of Sir Robert Manley; saying, that she thought that he had more virtue, and fewer faults, than most men of her acquaintance; and then asked Jenny what was her opinion of him. 'Really, Madam,' replied she, 'I pretend to very little judgment of mankind, especially in those I have known so short a time; but, by what I have seen of Sir Robert, he appears to me to have honour and good-sense, and also to be well natured.'

'You have named,' said Lady Speck, 'the three grand requisites for making a good husband; and I hope that the object of his affections will soon be convinced that he is possessed of them, as well as with an infinity of love.'— 'Is Sir Robert, then, about marrying?' demanded Jenny. 'I cannot say absolutely about it,' returned Lady Speck; 'for I am pretty certain he has not yet assumed courage enough to make any declaration of his passion: all I know is, that he is most violently in love.'— 'He is undoubtedly a very fine gentleman,' said Jenny; 'and, if his passion be sincere and honourable, he shall have my good wishes for his success.'— 'As to his success,' resumed her ladyship, 'it depends entirely on yourself; for, I assure you, it is with you he is in love.'— 'With me, Madam!' cried Jenny, very much astonished, and setting down her dish of tea. 'What does your ladyship mean?'— 'I mean as I have said,' replied the other: 'but, if you have a mind the intelligence should be repeated, I will oblige you so far as to assure you that it is with your individual self Sir Robert Manley is in love!'

'I perceive,' said Jenny, 'your ladyship is pleased to divert yourself this morning at my expence.'— 'No! I protest,' returned Lady Speck, 'I was never more in earnest in my whole life.'— 'Indeed,' rejoined Miss Wingman, 'I can vouch for my sister's sincerity in this point. Sir Robert has made Mr. Lovegrove and Lord Huntley the confidants of his passion; and, I believe, you will very soon hear it from his own mouth.'— 'I hope not,' answered Jenny, in a very reserved tone; 'for if Sir Robert has, in reality, such inclinations



‘inclinations towards me as you mention, he should, at least, have the prudence to keep them to himself, as he cannot but know my hand has long been destined to another.’—‘Say, rather,’ cried Lady Speck, ‘intended to be given; for it is not in the power of parents to make their children’s fate: they often decree for us what we do not think fit to comply with even while they live to awe us into obedience by their frowns; but when they are dead, and we are left to the management of ourselves, we children pay not much regard to the injunctions of those who are no longer in a condition to thwart our inclinations.’

‘That may be the case sometimes, Madam,’ said Jenny; ‘but I should be sorry to be among the number of those who verify it. Our parents have not only an undoubted right to dispose of us, but also are much better judges of what will make our happiness than ourselves can pretend to be.’—‘All this is very true,’ cried Miss Wingman, very briskly: ‘but how much soever those who would pass for the discreet part of our sex, may pique themselves upon their implicit obedience in this point, I believe the men will not be found altogether so sanguine in the performance of their duty.’—‘No, no!’ replied Lady Speck; ‘inclination does all on their part. It is not virtue, it is not wit, it is not beauty, it is not all the perfections that Heaven and Nature can bestow, but fancy, partial fancy, by which the heart of man is influenced; and that woman who preserves her affection for a lover, who either never did, or having once done so, ceases to regard her as he ought, discovers a meanness of spirit which must render her contemptible both in his eyes and those of all her acquaintance.’

Jenny, whose penetration few things escaped, presently comprehended that this discourse was aimed to raise some suspicions in her mind concerning the constancy of Jemmy; and, looking on such an attempt as highly injurious both to herself and him, answered, with somewhat of what the French call a *fierté* in her voice and countenance, in these terms: ‘The more ridiculous it

‘appears,’ said she, ‘the more reason have Mr. Jessamy and myself to thank Heaven for directing the care of our indulgent fathers to cast our lot where there is no danger of such a misfortune happening to either of us.’

Lady Speck and Miss Wingman looked on each other with some amazement while Jenny was speaking, as not well knowing what to think; but, after a pause of some minutes—‘Some people,’ said Lady Speck, a little scornfully, ‘take a pride in being blind to what half the town has long since seen and laughed at.’ Here she stopped; and Miss Wingman, who was the more spirited of the two, and a good deal nettled at the tart manner in which Jenny had spoke, cried out—‘Dear sister, I beg you will shew Miss Jessamy the letter your ladyship received since our coming down to Bath: it is the duty of her friends to force open her eyes, as she seems obstinate to shut day-light out.’

‘It is a thing I have been very loth to mention,’ resumed Lady Speck; ‘and I now do it with an extreme reluctance: but, since there is no other way to convince you that the world is not so ignorant as you imagine of the inconsistency and perfidiousness of Mr. Jessamy, read that; and cease, for the future, to offer any thing in the vindication of so unworthy a man.’ In speaking these words, she took a letter out of her pocket, and put it into Jenny’s hand; which that young lady opening, with an agitation of spirits very unusual with her, found it contained as follows.

‘TO THE HONOURABLE LADY  
‘SPECK, AT BATH.

‘MADAM,

‘AS I know very well that minds truly benignant and humane, like your ladyship’s, take a pleasure in every opportunity of doing good, I shall make no apology for the trouble of this anonymous epistle; especially as it is wrote with a view of serving a young lady who so well deserves, and possesses, so much of your ladyship’s kind wishes as Miss Jessamy.

‘But, not to keep your ladyship  
H longer

‘ longer in suspense, permit me to acquaint you, that Mr. Jessamy, who for some time has made his private addresses to Miss Chit, has now taken the opportunity of your fair friend’s absence to avow publicly his passion for that young person. Some people will have it, that every thing is already so far concluded upon between them, that a marriage will very shortly be consummated; but this I will not pretend to affirm: it is certain, however, that he loves her; and that a little skill in musick out-balances, in his giddy fancy, all the real merits of the beautiful and accomplished Miss Jessamy.

‘ I know not whether she is as yet apprized of his infidelity, or has even any suspicions of it; but the less she is so, the more will it shock her tender nature to find, at her return, that he is married, or about being married, to another. How could her gentle heart support the sudden disappointment! How bear the double pangs of the indignity offered to her love and beauty! Fatal, alas! might be the consequences of such a stroke, if not previously prepared and armed against it!

‘ It depends greatly on your ladyship to shield that injured innocence from being too deeply affected with her misfortune; and, as her case must touch every one who has a soul capable of social commiseration, I take the liberty, with all submission, to entreat you, Madam, to give her such warnings of her fate as may render the certainty, whenever it shall arrive, less heavy to be borne. If once thoroughly persuaded there is a probability of his being false, it will at least take off the alarming surprize of finding he is so: and the more early she is brought to suspect his baseness, the more opportunity she will have to exert the good sense she is mistress of in despising, instead of lamenting it.

‘ The manner in which this is most proper to be done will best be determined by your ladyship’s superior judgment. I only beg that the above hints may be received, in an assurance that they proceed from a heart truly devoted to honour and virtue, and

‘ entirely free from all views but such as may be conducive to promote the cause of those noble principles. I am, with a profound respect, Madam, your ladyship’s most humble, most faithful, and obedient servant.

‘ P. S. Your ladyship will pardon the concealment of my name for the present, as an advice of this nature might probably subject the person who gives it to many great inconveniences, if known before the affair to which it relates is absolutely concluded, and past beyond all possibility of denial.’

Scarce had Jenny patience to go through with this invidious scroll. ‘ Good God!’ cried she to Lady Speck, ‘ who is it can have the baseness to assert such monstrous untruths, or the presumption to attempt making your ladyship’s good-nature the dupe of a design so villainous, and withal so mean?’

Then immediately recollecting what had just now been told her concerning the passion Sir Robert Manley had entertained for her, she hesitated not a moment to accuse him of having taken this method to alienate her affections from Jemmy; and, looking on the contrivance with that contempt and indignation it really deserved, began to reproach him in terms the most bitter that could issue from a mouth so little accustomed to investives. The two ladies seemed quite astonished at her behaviour; and both joined to endeavour to convince her of the injustice to Sir Robert, who, they believed, had too much honour to attempt the gaining of his point by a way so abject and so unworthy of his character: and, to clear his innocence, assured her that they had heard an account of Jemmy’s infidelity, from many hands, before they left London, or that Sir Robert had ever seen her face. All they could say, however, was insufficient to make Jenny recede from her opinion: the dispute grew pretty warm; and would probably have run to greater lengths, if it had not been seasonably interrupted by some company coming to visit them.

## CHAP. XXI.

GIVES AN ACCOUNT OF SOME PASSAGES, WHICH, ADDED TO THE FORMER, AFFORD OUR HEROINE MUCH MATTER OF DISCONTENT.

JENNY had been so much discomposed and ruffled at the discourse of the ladies, and the letter shewn to her by them, that neither her natural sprightliness and gaiety, nor all the efforts her reason made, were sufficient to re-settle in her mind that happy serenity she enjoyed before. She had not the least tincture of jealousy in her composition; she had always depended on the sincerity of Jemmy, and, as yet, was far from believing that he could be false: but it vexed her to be told that others thought him so; that he passed, in the eyes of the world, for an inconstant and ungrateful man; and, what was still more insupportable, that herself was looked upon as a slighted and forsaken mistress. Pity is so near akin to contempt, that few women of spirit can bear it: even those who have the least share of vanity, I believe, would rather chuse to be envied and hated for having too much the power of pleasing, than commiserated for their want of it. The affection she had for Jemmy was not of that fond and foolish nature as to make her wish to be forever in his sight: she had been absent from him more weeks than she had now been days, without the least repining or inquietude; but, on hearing this story, she could not keep herself from being excessively impatient for his coming down to Bath; not that she desired his presence to clear any doubts of her own, but that his behaviour might convince the company she was with of their mistake as to his fidelity.

The promise he had made of following her when she left London, and which had since been confirmed by two several letters she had received from him, made her expect his arrival would be very soon; and she was pleasing herself with the thoughts how that event would make Lady Speck and Miss Wingman ashamed of having too rashly given credit to a calumny, which she doubted not but they would then see had not the

least foundation. But this was a satisfaction which vanished in a very short space of time: a few hours made her know that she must wait much longer than she had imagined for the completion of what at present her pride made her so ardently desire.

The evening of that very same day, whose morning had occasioned in her breast these various perturbations, presented her with something which was far from lulling them to rest. Just as she was going to the assembly-room with the ladies, and some other company, the post brought a letter; the contents whereof were these.

‘ TO MISS JESSAMY, AT BATH.

‘ DEAR JENNY,

‘ I Am in so ill a humour, that, I believe, it would be utterly out of my power to write to any one person in the world except yourself; and yet it is almost entirely on your account that I am thus disconcerted. This you may think a paradox; but I shall soon explain the riddle.

‘ For three whole days successively I have been every hour expecting the arrival of my steward; but last night, instead of himself, I received a letter from him, acquainting me that, having been obliged to make a seizure on one of my tenant’s effects, that affair would of necessity detain him at least seven or eight days longer. Judge how severely this accident has mortified me, as it deprives me so much longer than I hoped of the pleasures of Bath; and, what is infinitely more valuable to me, the sight of my dear Jenny! Console me as often as you can with your letters; it is in them alone I can take any true satisfaction during this enforced absence. Farewell! I flatter myself there is no need of fresh assurances to convince you that I am, with the warmest affection, my dear Jenny’s most devoted and obedient servant,

‘ J. JESSAMY.

‘ P. S. My friend Bellpine, who is now with me, desires you will accept his compliments and best wishes. We are just going together to hear a fine piece of  
H 2      ‘ musick,

' musick, if my chagrin does not  
' turn the notes into discord. Once  
' more for this time, my dear  
' Jenny, adieu !'

Jenny withdrew to a window to take just a cursory view of this epistle; for, being waited for by the company, she could not, without a breach of civility, give herself time to examine it with that strictness the present situation of her mind inclined her to do. She was, however, sufficiently mistress of the sense of it, to perceive she must not expect to see him at Bath so soon as she wished; and this delay, as my fair readers will easily believe, gave no small mortification both to her pride and love.

The assembly was more than ordinarily brilliant that night; but not all the diversions and gallantries of the place could dissipate the gloom that hung heavy on her spirits, and, as she was an ill dissembler, was but too visible in her countenance. It was not that in the slight perturbation she had been able to give Jemmy's letter she had found anything to confirm the informations of Lady Speck and Miss Wingman; but the delay of his coming, at a time when she thought his presence so necessary to clear both his own and her reputation, that alone gave her these inquietudes; and the disappointment was more grievous, as it was the first she as yet had ever met with.

Not all her efforts could enable her to behave with her accustomed vivacity that night: she bore very little part in the conversation; was wholly unattentive to the musick, as well as the fine things said to her; and whenever she spoke, it was in such a manner as made it easy to perceive she would rather have chose to have remained silent. Conscious of this defect, and finding herself altogether unfit for company, she pretended a violent head-ache, and retired some hours before the usual time. On her coming home she shut herself up in her own apartment, and gave strict orders to her maid that no one should disturb her; then fell to examining, with the utmost exactness, every sentence of the letter which had created in her so much uneasiness. She compared it with the others she had received from him since her arrival at Bath, and found it nothing different either in the style or manner; till, coming to the post-

script, the mention he made of going to hear a fine piece of musick, she suddenly cried out—' That musick may perhaps be performed by Miss Chit; a story, such as I have been told, could not certainly be raised without some little truth for it's foundation.'

But this fit of jealousy lasted scarce a moment. ' How unjust and foolish am I !' said she: ' I know he loves musick; but what then? If being mistress of that accomplishment had given Miss Chit, or any other woman, the preference to me in his esteem, he would have been entirely silent on the pleasure he was going to take: the guilty always carefully avoid speaking on the theme which calls their crime in question.' In this favourable disposition she might have continued, if a thousand instances of the deceit and perfidy of men, in the affairs of love, which she had either heard or read of, had not immediately presented themselves to her remembrance, and reminded her that she ought not to be too secure; that the passion of love, like the wind, blew where it list-ed; and that the poet says—

' Man is but man, inconstant still, and va-  
' rious;  
' There's no to-morrow in him like to-day:  
' Perhaps the atoms rolling in his brain  
' Make him think honestly this present hour;  
' The next, a swarm of base, ungrateful  
' thoughts,  
' May mount aloft:  
' Who would trust Chance, since all men have  
' the seeds  
' Of good or ill, which would work upwards  
' first.'

Yet for all this she could not bring herself to believe him absolutely false: if one moment accused him in her thoughts, the next acquitted him; but what gave her the greatest perplexity of all was, the difficulty she found in guessing by whom or to what end this aspersions had first been raised, and how it came to be so spread.

She thought that neither Jemmy nor herself had done any thing to incur the malice of the world, so far as that even any one person should be desirous of rendering them unhappy. ' It cannot therefore be,' cried she, ' but that some vile, self-interested view, must be the source of all this: nobody, sure, would be at the wicked pains



‘to separate two persons whose hearts from their infancy have been united by the strictest bonds of love and friendship, merely for the sake of mischief; no, it is utterly impossible that human nature can be so depraved.’ This reflection leading her still farther on, she began to argue within her mind for what end a contrivance to part her and Jemmy could be formed; and found none so conformable to probability, as that the author of it aimed to be in the place of one or the other. As for her own part, the engagements between her and Jemmy were so well known, that no man had ever made his serious addresses to her; and if Sir Robert Manley had now any such intentions, the character of that gentleman would not permit her to believe he could be capable of making use of base means for the forwarding his wishes: besides, Lady Speck and Miss Wingman had assured her, in the most solemn manner, that they had heard the report before their coming down to Bath, or that he had ever seen her.

It rested, therefore, that it must be on the account of Jemmy that all this had happened: she knew very well that he conversed freely with the ladies; he had never made a secret to her of his doing so; and it seemed not in the least improbable, that some one among them might like him but too well. ‘Perhaps,’ said she, ‘Miss Chit herself, mistaking for love what he meant only as gallantry, might have the vanity to boast of having inspired him with a real passion. The smallest hint,’ continued she, ‘that such a thing is, or possibly may be, passes with many people for an undoubted fact. And who knows but the whisper of Jemmy’s imaginary infidelity may have been carried from one to another, till it reached the ears of some person who, more compassionate than wife, wrote to Lady Speck in the manner I have seen?’

Thus did she endeavour to dive into the bottom of this mysterious affair, assigning for it every cause that reason or her fertile imagination could suggest; yet wavering still, and uncertain on which of them she should fix, her mind at length grew quite fatigued with the unavailing search; and she resolved to wait till time should bring to light what all her penetration could not at present

enable her to discover. In this manner was the sweetest and most serene temper in the world disconcerted and thrown off its bias, by the dark villainy of a man whom she had not the least suspicion of. She went to bed, however; and, for aught I ever heard to the contrary, slept as well as if nothing had happened to perplex her waking thoughts.

## C H A P. XXII.

AFFORDS SOME VERY USEFUL AND EXEMPLARY HINTS TO YOUNG PERSONS OF BOTH SEXES; WHICH IF THEY ARE NOT THE BETTER AND WISER FOR, IT IS WHOLLY OWING TO THEMSELVES, AND NOT THE FAULT OF THE AUTHOR.

THAT only true composing draught, an unforced natural slumber, so effectually lulled the mind of Jenny, that, when she arose the next morning, the anxieties of the preceding day were scarce remembered by her; or, if they were, it was but to wonder at herself for having yielded to their force. ‘As I think,’ said she, ‘that I may be pretty confident the story I was told yesterday has nothing of reality in it, but is a most vile and notorious falsehood; how silly was I to give myself any pain concerning either by whom or on what motive it was invented! There are some people,’ said she, ‘who seem to be born with a propensity to mischief. I remember that, when I was at the boarding-school, a thousand little quarrels happened between the girls, which were occasioned merely by the lying insinuations of some among us, who took a wicked pleasure in giving pain to others. Too many in the world,’ continued she, ‘when arrived at years of maturity, instead of endeavouring to correct, take pains to improve and cultivate this cruel disposition in themselves, till even it becomes a science; and the more vexation they create to those who are so unhappy to be of their acquaintance, the more proofs they imagine they give of their own ingenuity and fertility of invention.’

‘How stupid, then, is it,’ went she still

still on, 'to give ear to every idle tale!  
' It is joining with the adversaries of  
' our peace; aiding those malicious ef-  
' forts, and giving them a triumph  
' over us, which otherwise all they  
' could do would never be able to ob-  
' tain. We certainly ought not to be-  
' lieve ill of any one without the testi-  
' mony of our own senses to confirm  
' the truth of that report; but more  
' especially it behoves us to reject with  
' the utmost contempt whatever has a  
' tendency to create a disagreement be-  
' tween us and those we love.'

Thus did her good understanding  
and strength of reason enable her to get  
the better of all these doubts and jea-  
lous apprehensions, into which young  
persons of her sex are for the most part  
too liable to fall. She passed a good  
deal of time in this sort of conversa-  
tion with herself; and would not, per-  
haps, have broke it off so soon, if she  
had not been interrupted by Lady  
Speck's woman, who came into the  
chamber to enquire after her health, and  
to let her know the ladies waited break-  
fast for her. She obeyed the summons  
immediately, and appeared so very  
sprightly, that Lady Speck and her  
sister had not the least room to imagine  
that the disorder she had complained of  
the night before had been occasioned  
by any thing they had said to her in re-  
lation to Jemmy. A succession of vi-  
sitants, one after another, came in all  
that whole day, some of whom staid to  
accompany them to the Long-room; but  
Jenny, who had never failed to answer  
every letter she had received from Jem-  
my by the very first post, would not  
now be more remiss; and, excusing her-  
self for a few minutes, retired to her  
chamber, and wrote to him in the fol-  
lowing manner.

' TO JAMES JESSAMY, ESQ.

' MY DEAR JEMMY,

' I Am very sensible that I am quite  
' wrong to add to the vexation you  
' express, by giving you any knowledge  
' of mine; yet it is not in my power to  
' forbear telling you, that this delay of  
' your journey has involved me in dis-  
' quiets altogether new to me; I know  
' not how it is, that I never so much  
' wished to see you as I now do.

' I should be sorry if you neglected

' any affairs of consequence on my ac-  
' count; but be assured, however, till  
' you come, all the amusements, all  
' the pleasures, with which this place  
' abounds, and I am continually sur-  
' rounded, will lose their relish, and be  
' insipid to me.

' Such a confession would seem ex-  
' tremely awkward from the pen of a  
' woman, were we not upon the terms  
' we are, or had we been brought up in  
' a different manner: but from my in-  
' fancy I have been made to think it  
' was my duty to conceal from you no  
' part of my sentiments; and you have  
' often told me, that the same prin-  
' ciples were instilled in you. As I  
' have the most perfect confidence that  
' you are no less punctual in your obe-  
' dience to this injunction than myself,  
' I am not afraid or ashamed of giving  
' you all the testimonies of my affection  
' that honour and virtue will permit;  
' and more, I am certain, you will  
' never desire.

' I shall say nothing to urge you to  
' as speedy a dispatch as possible of the  
' business that detains you from me; I  
' am too well acquainted with your  
' sincerity to doubt if your heart is not  
' already here, and shall therefore en-  
' deavour to console myself till your  
' arrival, with your letters, as you tell  
' me you shall do with those you receive  
' from me. I am, with an attachment  
' which only yourself can break, my  
' dear Jemmy, your most affectionate  
' and ever-faithful

' J. JESSAMY.

' P. S. If I have expressed too much  
' impatience in the above, excuse  
' it on the account that, hitherto  
' unaccustomed to disappoint-  
' ments, I am the less able to su-  
' stain them with that fortitude  
' and resignation I ought to do.'

Having finished this little epistle, and  
given orders that it should be carried to  
the post-office, she returned to the com-  
pany, who by this time were ready to  
adjourn to the assembly: she went with  
them; and few women there appeared  
to more advantage than herself. Sir  
Robert Manley, to whom neither Lady  
Speck nor Miss Wingman had related  
any part of the rebuff they had received  
from Jenny on his score, was very im-  
patient

patient to make a declaration of his passion to her: but though he had seen her three times that day, at home, in the walks, and at the assembly, yet no opportunity proper for his purpose had presented itself.

He complained of his ill-luck to Lord Huntley and Mr. Lovegrove, who, after consulting with the ladies what could be done for the advancement of the interest of their friend in this point, it was so contrived amongst them, that she should be left alone with him, as if by accident. But this could not be done with so much art as to elude the discernment of Jenny; she easily perceived with what intent first one and then another slipped out of the room, till none but Sir Robert and herself were left in it. She could not help smiling within herself to think that all this mighty pains was taken only to shew Sir Robert that he had nothing to hope for from her; and was not at all displeased with having it in her power to convince that gentleman, that the affection between herself and Jemmy was too strongly cemented to be shaken by the amorous attacks of any pretender whatsoever.

I am afraid that, on computation, the number of those ladies would be found but small, who, in this giddy and unthinking age, are not fond of making new conquests, though rendered, by even the most solemn engagements, utterly incapable of accepting the trophies presented them. Jenny, however, had nothing of this vanity in her composition; she had heard and read much of the effects of love, and the fatal consequences which had sometimes attended a disappointed flame; and therefore had always considered that passion as a thing of too serious a nature to be sported with; and that it was an action highly ungenerous and cruel to encourage the growth of it in any heart, without having the power or inclination of making an adequate return. Sir Robert Manley was a person whose addresses might have gratified the pride of any woman who placed her glory in seeing herself admired. Jenny was sensible of his merit; but the more she was so, the more she thought herself obliged to prevent him at once from indulging any fruitless expectations.

He had no sooner made her an offer of his heart, and was just beginning to

assure her how much, and how eternally, he was devoted to her, than she stopped the progress of his declaration, by asking him, with a very reserved air, if he were really in earnest? To which he answering in the affirmative, and annexing the most solemn protestation of the truth—‘Then, Sir,’ said she, ‘I am equally sorry and astonished, that a gentleman of so much good sense and honour in other things, should forget himself so far as to entertain any thoughts of this kind for a woman who, he cannot but have heard, has from her very birth been allotted for another.’

The manner in which these words were delivered giving a double energy to the meaning of them, had a prodigious effect on the person to whom they were directed: though a man of great presence of mind, bred in high life, and perfectly acquainted with the world, he could not keep himself from being a little abashed at receiving so grave and so severe a reprimand from a lady of Jenny’s years and inexperience; but soon recovering himself—‘Madam,’ said he, ‘I beg you will do me the justice to believe, that however ardent my passion is, I would scorn to attempt the gratification of it by any ways which my honour or my reason should condemn: that I love you, is most true; yet would I chuse rather to consume through the force of an inextinguishable flame, than to make the least encroachment either on your virtue or your peace.’

‘I do not, indeed, deny,’ continued he, ‘but that I have been told somewhat concerning an agreement made for you in your extreme youth: but as no consequence has since happened of that agreement, I flattered myself that your heart approved not of the choice made for you; was at full liberty to elect for itself; and that no impediment lay in the way of my ambition, but my own unworthiness of obtaining so inestimable a jewel.’

He concluded these words with a deep sigh, and a bow full of the greatest tenderness and respect. The grateful soul of Jenny was a little touched at his behaviour; and she immediately replied with an extreme sweetness—‘Were there no other bar than what you last mentioned, Sir,’ said she, ‘I believe there are few women, of any penetra-

tion

'tion at least, to whom your heart  
'would be an unacceptable present;  
'and I shall rejoice to see it bestowed  
'where equal worth and unpre-engaged  
'affections may crown the utmost of  
'it's wishes.'—'Ah, Madam!' cried  
'Sir Robert, 'why is this enchanting  
'goodness lavished on a man who can-  
'not thank the bounty? All my de-  
'sires, alas! are centered in yourself:  
'and to wish me happy with any other  
'object, is but to wish me wretched.  
'But tell me, tell me,' pursued he,  
'are you in earnest, absolutely deter-  
'mined, to give your hand to this too  
'fortunate rival? Is it a thing mutu-  
'ally resolved between you?'

Jenny, knowing very well what he  
had been informed of concerning the  
supposed infidelity of Jemmy, was  
charmed with his politeness in imputing  
the delay of their nuptials rather to an  
indifference on her side than a dislike on  
his, and now more desirous than ever  
of entirely stifling all fallacious hopes,  
which in the end might prove destruc-  
tive to his peace, compelled her modesty  
to confess to him, that she really loved  
Jemmy; and that her inclinations would  
have preferred him to all the men in the  
world, even though they had not been  
destined for each other by their parents.

Sir Robert could not hear this decla-  
ration without pain; but being fully  
persuaded in his mind, by what Lord  
Huntley, Mr. Lovegrove and others, had  
assured him, that Jemmy but ill repaid  
the tenderness of his fair mistress, he as-  
sumed courage enough to offer a second  
petition to her consideration. 'Well,  
'Madam,' said he, after a little pause,  
'I will not presume to call in question  
'the merits of the man whom you are  
'pleased to favour; I will believe him  
'as deserving as I am sure he is happy:  
'yet if any accident, yet unforeseen,  
'should happen to disunite you; if any  
'thing, impossible as it may seem,  
'should render him ungrateful for the  
'blessing he enjoys; might I hope my  
'love, my truth, my perseverance,  
'would in time find some room in a  
'corner of that heart which, doubtless,  
'then would have exterminated it's first  
'ideas?' This insinuation was far from  
working the effect it was intended for;  
Jenny was highly offended at it; and,  
turning from him with somewhat of a  
disdainful air—'To demand a promise,'  
said she, 'on suppositions without founda-

'tion, is so chimerical as scarce to  
'deserve an answer: but, Sir Robert,  
'on this you may depend, That when-  
'ever Mr. Jessamy shall prove himself  
'unworthy of my love, I shall, instead  
'of giving him a successor in my heart,  
'detest and avoid mankind for ever.'

Sir Robert was now conscious he had  
gone too far; and, desirous of preserving  
her esteem, if he could not gain her af-  
fection, endeavoured all he could to ex-  
cuse the rashness of his late suggestions;  
which possibly he succeeded in better  
than he imagined, as Jenny was sensible  
it was owing to the base report that had  
been raised: she would not, however,  
seem to forgive too easily any reflection  
cast upon her dear Jemmy, but conti-  
nued in the same serious deportment  
till the return of the company put an  
end to all discourse between them on  
this score.

#### CHAP. XXIII.

RELATES HOW, IN THE COMPASS  
OF AN HOUR, JENNY MET WITH  
TWO SURPRIZING ADVENTURES  
OF VERY DIFFERENT KINDS; AND  
THE MANNER IN WHICH SHE BE-  
HAVED IN THEM, WITH SOME  
OTHER LESS EXTRAORDINARY  
PARTICULARS, WHICH THE REA-  
DER WILL DOUBTLESS BE PUZ-  
ZLED TO KNOW THE MEANING  
OF.

AFTER what had passed between  
Jenny and Sir Robert, that gen-  
tleman thought it would be in vain to  
prosecute his suit; his friends also, to  
whom he imparted the conversation he  
had with her, were of the same opinion;  
and the report of Jemmy's inconstancy  
began now to lose much of the credit it  
had obtained among them.

Sir Robert, whose esteem for Jenny  
was not at all diminished by her late  
behaviour towards him, though it had  
made him endeavour to overcome his  
passion for her, omitted nothing in his  
power to reconcile himself to her good  
graces; which he at length effectually  
did, by giving her the strongest and re-  
iterated assurances that he would never  
more attempt to interrupt that affection  
which he now seemed to believe, mutu-  
ally existing between her and Mr. Jef-  
samy. The same easy freedom of con-  
versation



versation which had reigned among this amiable company since their first coming down to Bath, was now again restored: but it lasted not long; accidents on accidents, in which every one had a share, immediately fell out, and turned all into discord and confusion.

Among the crowd of guests who were every day at the tea-table of Lady Speck, there was a gentleman named Celandine; he had but lately returned from making the tour of Europe; and, like Clodio in the play, pretended to be acquainted with all the intrigues of the several courts he had been in: he was gay, spirited, had some wit, and abundance of assurance; which, with the affectation of good-humour, made him pass for a very agreeable companion, and particularly entitled him to the favour of the ladies, many of whom thought the loss of reputation no disgrace when forfeited on his account.

He was certainly very much indebted to Nature for a handsome person, and to education for all those modish accomplishments which, with unthinking people, are apt to cast a lustre even on the worst qualities of the mind; his example was at least a proof of this melancholy truth; for it would have puzzled even his best friends and greatest admirers, if asked the question, to have found any one virtue in him compensate for a thousand vices: he was vain to an excess; ungrateful, insincere, incapable either of love or friendship; a contemner both of morality and religion: in fine, he was a libertine professed. His family was ancient and honourable, and from thence descended to him a very large estate, which, without doing one generous or benevolent action, he seemed to take abundance of pains to get rid of by the most unheard-of and ridiculous extravagancies and vagaries.

The reader will perhaps imagine, that a character such as this deserved not so particular a description; nor should I have troubled him with it, had there not been an absolute necessity of my doing so, for reasons which will presently appear. Jenny was at home alone one day; Lady Speck and Miss Wingman were gone into the walk; but some letters she had received from London, which required immediate answers, had hindered her from accompanying them: having finished what she had to do be-

fore they returned, she went down into the garden, in order to refresh her spirits after the fatigue they had undergone by writing so much longer than she was accustomed at one time.

She took a short promenade in the great alley; but, being in a contemplative mood, retired into an arbour at the farther end of it; where, as the reader may remember, the performers in Lord Huntley's interlude had been concealed. There could not, indeed, be a more proper scene for indulging meditation; and she was just beginning to fall into a very agreeable reverie, when on a sudden Celandine appeared at the entrance of the leafy bower, and accosted her with these lines, translated by himself from a French poet:

‘ So look’d Pomona when Vertumnus came,  
‘ And with immortal raptures clasp’d the  
‘ dame.’

As great a favourite as this young gallant was with most of the women of his acquaintance, Jenny had never been able to endure the sight of him, on account of his pert confident behaviour; but his presence was now doubly unwelcome to her, as there was nobody but herself to entertain him, or to bear a part in the impertinent freedoms of his conversation; and she could not forbear giving him a look which might have dashed the boldness of any other man, and made him quit the place. But Celandine, as has been before observed, and Jenny in this visit experienced to her cost, was none of those who were capable of being awed either by looks or words. Full of his own merit, and puffed up with frequent successes among the fair, he thought the whole sex at his devotion; that no woman could withstand his charms, and that the coldness Jenny had always treated him with was no more than an affectation of modesty in publick, which, on his making the first overtures of a passion for her, would vanish in an instant, and she would drop into his arms as rain does from the firmament.

‘ How kind is Fortune to me,’ said he, approaching her, ‘ in giving me this opportunity of speaking in private to my angel!’ — ‘ If you are indebted to Fortune for no greater favours,’ replied Jenny, ‘ you have but small cause to thank her bounty. But pray,’

I continued

continued she, 'how came you to be out of the walks this fine day, when all the world are there?'—'I might ask you the same question,' answered he; 'and equally wonder why I find the enchanting Miss Jessamy here, moping in solitary shade, and neglecting to increase the number of her conquests, and add new triumphs to her eyes: but I will tell you,' pursued he, catching hold of her hand; 'it was Fate, propitious Fate, ordained it so for both our happiness: some kind good-natured demon put it into your head to stay at home, and in mine to seek you here.'

He concluded these words with throwing one of his arms about her neck, and began to kiss her with vehemence. Hard it is to say, whether surprise or rage, at being treated in this manner, was most predominant in her soul: she broke from him; and, starting some paces back—'What means this rudeness?' cried she. 'Give not so harsh a name,' rejoined he, 'to the emotions of the most tender passion that ever was.'—'A passion for me!' said she, in a voice full of disdain. 'Yes, for you!' replied he, staring her in the face. 'Did my eyes never tell you the secret of my heart?'—'No, really,' said she; 'I never examined into the mysterious dialect, nor desire to have it explained.'

With these words she was going hastily out of the arbour, but the nimble Celandine at one jump got between her and the entrance, and in spite of all the resistance she could make, forced her back to the bench where he had found her sitting. 'No more prudery,' cried he, 'nor this pretended coyness; we are now alone, and the means of being so are not easy to be found in such a place as Bath: do not, then, by this unseasonable reserve, make me lose the golden glorious opportunity that Heaven has sent, of giving you the most substantial proofs how much my soul adores you; how much I prize you above that Heaven itself.'

It is as impossible to paint the distraction Jenny was in, as it was for her to express it, or relieve herself from the impending danger to which she was reduced. They were at too great a distance from the house for her cries to alarm the family: he held her fast down

on the seat, with his hands on both her shoulders; she could only call him Monster! Villain! while he, regardless of her reproaches, uttered things which made her modest heart shudder at the sound of. To what horrid freedom he might have proceeded is uncertain: a sudden rustling among the branches, which twined about the latticed arbour, made him relax the hold he had taken of his fair captive, and turn to see what had occasioned this interruption. Jenny lost not the instant of her release, but rather flew than ran out of that detested place; when, just at the entrance, she was met by a woman, or, to speak more properly, a fury armed with a pen-knife; which she had doubtless plunged into the bosom of the defenceless fair, if Celandine, who was close behind, had not been very quick in wresting it from her hand.

'What fiend, thou cursed creature!' cried Celandine, 'has prompted thy malice to attempt this execrable deed!'—'What fiend but thyself, thou worse than devil?' answered she, almost foaming at the mouth with passion. Jenny staid not to hear what farther passed between them, but ran screaming down the alley; Lady Speck and Miss Wingman, accompanied by Mr. Lovegrove, entered the house at that very moment, and were the first who came to her assistance.

Never were three people in greater consternation than they; Jenny, with arms extended, and garments all disordered, crying out for help; Celandine, at some distance, with the utmost confusion in his looks, and at his feet a woman, who seemed either dead or in a swoon. In vain they enquired the occasion of all this; Jenny was incapable of speaking, by the fright which yet hung upon her spirits; the intended murderers, by the condition she was in; and Celandine, by his guilt. Mr. Lovegrove, who had more presence of mind than any of the rest on this occasion, finding no answers were given to their interrogatories, kept forward to convince himself if the person who lay upon the earth were alive or dead; and this action of his it was that probably recovered Celandine the use of his tongue: but the first and only token he gave of it, was to say, it was a mad woman, who had some how or other gained

ed admittance; and to desire the servants might be ordered to carry her out of the house.

Mr. Lovegrove having found the person he spoke of in this manner was only in a fainting-fit, cried out—'What ever she is, her figure, as well as the present condition she is in, seems to demand rather compassion than contempt.' On this Lady Speck and her sister ran to assist the charitable endeavour he was making for her recovery; but Jenny still kept at a good distance; and Celandine, who, for all his impudence, was not provided with fit answers to the questions which were likely to be put to him, took the opportunity of their being thus engaged to sneak off, without giving any notice of his going.

By this time the woman of the house, with all the servants, were got into the garden; and among them the unhappy stranger was carried into a parlour, and laid upon a couch, where proper remedies being applied, she came a little to herself.

#### CHAP. XXIV.

CONTAINS SOME PART OF THE HISTORY OF THE FURIOUS STRANGER, AS TOLD BY HERSELF.

THE company to whom Jenny had now related the dangers she had escaped, were very impatient to know the whole of this adventure; and perceiving the person chiefly concerned in it was recovered enough to be able to satisfy their curiosity, began almost all at once to ask what had induced her to attempt such an act of barbarity; but that unfortunate creature had not the power, for a considerable time, of making any other answer than a torrent of tears, which gushed from her eyes with such rapidity, as drew compassion even from Jenny herself. The violence of that passion, however, which so long had stopped the passage of her words, having found this vent, she entreated their pardon for the disturbance she had caused, and thanked the charitable relief that had been offered her, in terms so polite, as made every one see she was not of the lowest rank of life.

Then turning to Jenny—'But it is you, Madam, I have most offended!'

said she. 'Oh! had I perpetrated the horrid deed, Heaven, sure, must have decreed some new and yet unpractised torture for a crime like mine.' Here she ceased, to give way to some sighs, which were just then forcing themselves from her afflicted bosom; after which—'Yet that Heaven, to whom I now appeal,' cried she, 'is witness for me, as well as my own conscious soul, that I was clear of all malice, all premeditated design, against you. When I drew that cursed knife, I meant not to hurt your innocence, but to do justice to myself on the villain that was with you. Some demon in that instant, sure, turned my erring arm from it's intended mark to save his brother fiend.'

'Who is this fiend, this villain, you are speaking of?' cried Lady Speck, with some emotion. 'Oh! there is no name so foul, so black, as he deserves!' replied the other: 'but if you would paint a wretch, in whom all vices, all corruptions, meet as in their centre, then call him Celandine!—Oh, ladies!' continued she, in the extremest agonies, 'why will you suffer such a serpent near you? Wherever he comes he brings destruction with him, and bitterness of heart with everlasting infamy are the legacies he leaves behind him!'

It is probable she would have run on with these exclamations much longer, if Mr. Lovegrove had not reminded her, that as the person was not there, she would do better to inform the company of the cause of her complaint against him: 'For,' said he, 'you neither can be justified nor be condemned in our opinion, without your letting us into the secret of his crime.'

'Alas!' answered she, bursting again into tears, 'neither his crime nor my shame are secrets to the world; and as I am before persons of so much honour and goodness, I have reason to hope that a perfect knowledge of those unfortunate circumstances which brought on my undoing, will entitle me rather to compassion, than at all add to the contempt the late behaviour I have been guilty of must have excited.'

The ladies then, as well as Mr. Lovegrove, assured her, that she could no way so well atone for the confusion she had given them, as by making them

a faithful narrative of the motives which had induced her to it. On this she endeavoured to compose herself as much as possible; and, after a pause of a few minutes, in order to recollect the passages she was about to relate, began to do as she was desired, in these or the like terms.

THE HISTORY OF MRS. M——.

"I Will not detain your attention," said this afflicted woman, "with any impertinent particulars concerning a wretch so unworthy as myself; but beg you will afford a patient hearing of such as are absolutely necessary for the better understanding of my unhappy story.

"I was the only daughter of a gentleman, who, being a younger son, had no other dependence than a post in one of the publick offices. As he lived up to the height of his income, I was left at his decease, which happened when I was about seventeen years of age, with no other portion than a genteel education, some household furniture, and a few jewels. I had lost my mother in my infancy, so that I was altogether an orphan: my father's brother, though possessed of a large estate, declined taking any care of me; and I know not what would have become of me, if an aunt, by my mother's side, had not been so good to admit me into her family, to preserve me, as she said, from falling into those temptations to which a maid of my years, and accounted not ugly, was liable to be exposed.

"I had not lived quite two years with this kind relation, before some business brought frequently to her house a gentleman called Mr. M——, who you must doubtless have heard of, as he makes a pretty considerable figure in the law: he took a fancy to me at first sight, which afterwards grew up into a passion; in fine, he loved me upon the most honourable terms; and asked leave of my aunt to make his addresses to me. The match was too advantageous for a girl in my circumstances to be refused: she pressed me to it; and as neither his person nor conversation were disagreeable to me, I consented, and in a short time became his wife.

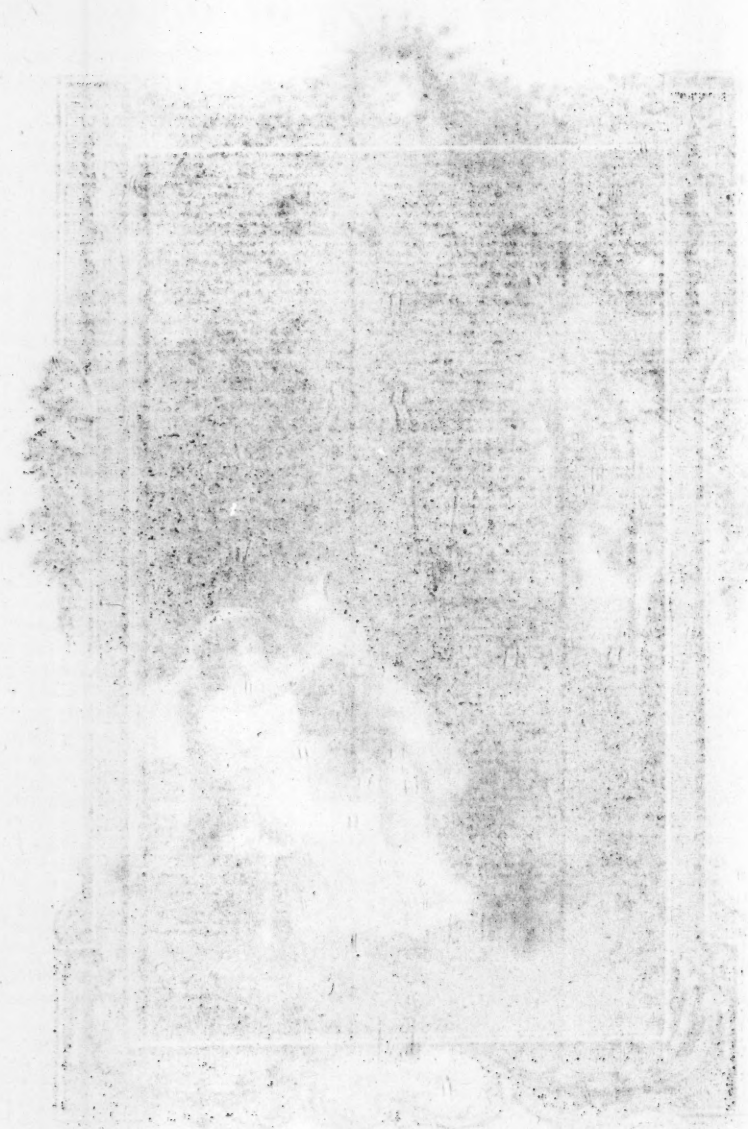
"Few women, I believe, can boast of more happiness than I enjoyed during the first seven or eight months of our marriage: my husband seemed to have no other study than that of obliging me; he was continually forming some new schemes of delight and entertainment for me; he never heard of any ornament of dress or furniture, in use with the *beau monde*, but he bought and brought it home to me. He could scarce bear losing the sight of me a moment; and, indeed, gave me more of his company than could well be spared from his avocation.

"But the extremes of any thing are seldom lasting; this exuberance of transported love, this phrenzy of passion, if I may call it so, vanished by very swift degrees; as sudden coldness almost at once succeeded: he treated me civilly, it is true; retrenched no part of my expences; denied me nothing that I asked; but yet I found a mighty difference between this and his former behaviour. Ah, how dangerous it is for men to begin with demonstrations of a fondness which they cannot persevere in! I was young, vain, inconsiderate. I expected the same assiduity to please, the same raptures as at first, and could not brook the disappointment. I complained of this change of my condition to a female friend of more years and experience than myself: at first she laughed at me, and told me that nothing was more common; and that she had often wondered Mr. M—— held out the honey-moon so long.

"This putting me beyond all patience—"Do not be so much out of humour," said she: "your case is but the same with other women; and I believe I can direct you to a course that will infallibly retrieve all; and as it is the nature of mankind," continued she, "to be rampant in the pursuit of their wishes, but languid in the full possession of them, you must give your husband room to apprehend he is not so secure of your heart as he has imagined. Toy with some pretty fellow before his face; send often for him, and affect to be uneasy till you see him: this will rouse your husband, if any thing will do it; jealousy new-points the darts of love, and whets the edge of  
"satiated







“satiated desire; according to the poet—

“They dearly prize what they once fear to lose.”

“I greedily swallowed this false doctrine,” continued Mrs. M—— with a deep sigh, “and immediately resolved on making the experiment. Celandine, whose person I have no occasion to give a particular description of, as you all know him, seemed formed by nature for the purpose I intended. He came frequently to our house; my husband always treated him with the extremest respect, as indeed he had good reason to do, being indebted for his first setting out in the world, in the handsome manner he did, to the father of Celandine, whom both his parents had served, the one in quality of a steward, the other of housekeeper. The favours conferred on Mr. M——, even from his infancy, by that old gentleman, were such as made many people suspect there was a nearer affinity between them than was for my mother-in-law’s honour to acknowledge: be that, however, as it may, it is not my business to inspect into the faults of others, but bewail my own.

“I had hitherto behaved towards my husband’s young patron, for so he always called him, with the reserve becoming the married woman; but now, according to the pernicious advice I had received, I put on the most light airs before him, and looked and talked in such a manner as might have made a man of much less vanity than he is endued with, imagine me to be most passionately in love with him. Whether my husband had really too much indifference for me to regard any thing I did, or whether he thought the extraordinary civilities I shewed to his friend were merely to oblige him, I cannot be certain; all I can say is, that he took not the least notice of this change in my conduct; nor could I perceive any alteration in his behaviour towards me upon it.

“But Celandine, who thought me all devoted to him, was not of a humour to lose any part of the triumph of his new conquest: he assiduously watched every opportunity of being alone with

me; returned the pretended advances I had made him, with all the ardour of a man transported with them; till, at last, my heart became susceptible of the guilty flame, and what I had so fatally affected grew into reality: in fine, I loved him, was too weak to resist the dictates of my passion, and became a prey to the worst monster that ever wore the shape of man.”

Here Mrs. M—— became unable to proceed: she was not so entirely lost to all sense of honour and virtue as not to feel an extreme shock at the remembrance of what she was about to repeat; shame and confusion overwhelmed her heart, and threw her into a second fainting, from which she was not without some difficulty recovered.

#### CHAP. XXV.

CONTAINS A CONTINUATION OF  
MRS. M——’S ADVENTURES.

THE unfortunate Mrs. M——, having once more regained the power of utterance, made a handsome apology for that interruption which grief and shame had occasioned in her recital; and then prosecuted it in the following manner.

“It may seem strange, perhaps,” said she, “that, with my innocence, I should lose all discretion too; yet so it was: fond even to madness of my undoer, and self-satisfied with my crime, I thought of nothing, regarded nothing, studied nothing, but how to gain fresh opportunities of repeating it. Whenever my husband was abroad, as of late he had but too often been so, I sent over half the town in search of Celandine: if he was not found, the ill-humour I was in sufficiently testified to all about me my impatience for the disappointment; and whenever he was with me, we were constantly locked up together, and all who came to visit me were denied access.

“All this, as may easily be supposed, could be no secret: some of my acquaintance contented themselves with shunning my conversation; others still kept me company, but it was only to have the more opportunity of seeing

‘seeing and exposing my folly. I became the derision even of my own servants, as I easily perceived by the little obedience they paid to my commands, and the pert answers they gave, which were also accompanied with sneering countenances and malicious grins, whenever I went about to exert my authority over them as a mistress. Oh! how great was my infatuation! I can now, with astonished eyes, behold all these things distinctly; but at that time was blind to all that conduced not to the gratification of my love; or, as I then flattered myself, rewarding that of the man whom I considered as the most faithful, as well as the most charming, of his sex.’ Here the tears began again to flow; but she soon dried them up, and pursued the thread of her discourse.

‘My husband, I believe,’ continued she, ‘was the last person sensible of the dishonour I had brought upon him; but he could not long escape the hearing of what, had he not been blinded by his too good opinion either of myself or Celandine, he needed not to have been told. I am apt to think, however, that he gave not an entire credit to the story; for, if he had, he would not have taken the pains he did to be convinced.’

‘He left Celandine with me one day, pretending that some very extraordinary business called him abroad; but, instead of going out, went and concealed himself in a closet within our bed-chamber; into which, thinking ourselves perfectly secure, we retired soon after his supposed departure. We had not been there many minutes before he rushed out, and surprized us in a manner as could admit no doubt of the crime we were guilty of. Celandine snatched up his sword, which lay in the window, and immediately drew it, expecting he should have occasion to use it: but my husband, in the same moment, eased his apprehensions on that score, by saying, with a voice which had more of grief than anger in it—“Put up, Sir: I have not forgot the obligations I have to your family; and am only sorry to find you have taken this method to acquit me of them. All I desire is, that you will leave my house

“directly, and that from henceforward we may be utter strangers.”’ Celandine was in too much confusion to make any answer; and went away with all the speed he could.

‘As for my wretched self, fear, which, one would think, should rather have given wings to my feet, and made me fly the presence of an injured husband, rivetted me to the bedside on which I was sitting; my blood was all congealed; my spirits ceased to operate: he upbraided my treachery and perfidiousness in terms which, I must confess, they merited. I heard all he said; but had it not in my power to make the least reply, or to excuse or defend my crime, had it been in words to do either; but at that time I was indeed bereft of speech as well as motion. Having vented some part of his indignation in revilings, he flung out of the room, and left me in the condition described.’

‘No stupidity, sure, ever equalled mine; a death-like numbness had seized all my faculties; what little sense I had was bewildered and confused: I could not even reflect on the misfortunes to which my folly had reduced me, much less contrive any means to render them more supportable. How long I remained, or how much longer I should have remained, in this lethargy of mind, I know not; but it was almost dark when I was roused out of it by the sudden appearance of an elderly woman, a relation of my husband’s; who, with a stern voice and countenance, told me that she was sent by him to take care of his family; and that I must immediately go out of the house.’

‘This message, and the manner in which it was delivered, stung me to the very soul: rage and disdain now quickened every nerve; I was all on fire, and raved against Mr. M—in terms which would have made any one who heard me think that it was myself, not he, who was the injured person. To this she coolly answered, that it was not her business to argue with me on these points; that she had discharged her commission in signifying my husband’s pleasure to me; which, since I did not think fit to comply with, he must come himself, and put an end to the dispute;’

‘adding,



adling, that he was not far off, and she would send directly for him.

All my courage again forsook me; the sight of my husband, at this time, was more dreadful to me than any thing I could suffer in being banished from him: besides, my reason now convinced me, that, after so full a detection of my crime, I could not hope to live under the same roof with him; at least not till a long series of penitence and submissions should give me a title to his forgiveness. I therefore called the woman back, perceiving she was going to do as she had said, and told her, that, since it was my husband's will I should depart, I would not provoke him by my disobedience.

In speaking these words, I started up, went to the drawers, put a night-mob into my pocket, hurried on my capuchin, ordered a coach to be called, and seemed in as much haste to be gone as my husband was to get rid of me. While I was doing this, his kinswoman desired I would take the keys with me; saying that, if I sent them in the morning, she had orders to let me have every thing belonging to me. "Very well," replied I, carelessly; "I shall know in the morning what I have to do." The coach being at the door, I stepped hastily into it, and made the fellow drive me to a milliner's in Covent Garden, whose customer I had been for a considerable time.

I chose this woman's house for an asylum in my distress, not daring to apply to any one of my relations: nor did I think it proper as yet to trust her with the whole secret of my guilt and my misfortunes; I only told her that I had a quarrel with my husband, and had sworn not to sleep with him that night; so desired she would be hospitable enough to afford me a bed, as I knew she had one to spare.

The former part of that night I passed in the most cruel agitations; but towards the latter grew somewhat more composed: the vivacity of my temper represented to me, that I was not the first woman who had lived in a state of separation from her husband; that the discourse of these things was soon over; that I had a

lover who would always supply me with the necessaries of life; and that the loss of reputation would be atoned for by the endearments of so worthy a man. Thus, alas! was my judgment misguided by my fond passion for that ungrateful wretch!

I dispatched a messenger to him next morning: he came immediately; desired I would provide handsome lodgings for myself; and assured me, with a thousand protestations, that his purse and his person should always be at my devotion. Notwithstanding this, I wrote to my husband, excusing my transgression as well as I was able: he sent me all the things I had left behind; but returned, for answer to my letter, that he was determined never to see my face again; and that all he would do for me was to pay for my board, on condition I would retire to a farm-house an hundred and fifty miles from London, and never more come back.

Gladly, therefore, I accepted of Celandine's offer; hired an apartment; and thought myself as happy as a woman in my circumstances could be. I was, indeed, but too well satisfied with my condition; I wanted for nothing that I desired, and had more than I could have expected of the company of the man I prized above the world. But, alas! these golden days were of a short continuance: too soon I found, by sad experience, that a lover, as well as a husband, could grow cool on a sure possession! I cannot, however, accuse him of being a niggard to me in his allowance for my support: but loving him to that excess I did, it was an adequate return of love which alone could make me truly blessed.

At last, he talked of going to Bath: I testified an extreme desire of accompanying him; but he endeavoured to put me off by pretences, which seemed to me very trifling, till I insisted upon his taking me with him; he plainly told me that I must not think of it; for he was to go with persons by whom it was wholly improper I should be seen. I wept; but he was not softened by my tears: only laying ten guineas on the table, bid me console myself with that till his return; and then took his leave

with

“with the same careless air as he could have done of the most slight acquaintance.

“Judge how severe a stab this must give both to my love and pride! I saw, by the manner of his refusing, that there was something more at the bottom than he made shew of, and resolved to fathom it, whatever should be the event: accordingly, as he left London in a post-chaise, I followed him the next morning in the stage-coach.”

Here the reflection on those wild lengths to which the folly of her passion had transported her, made her again unable to proceed; and the company were obliged to give a truce to their curiosity till she recovered herself enough to go on with her narrative, in the manner which will be seen in the succeeding Chapter.

#### CHAP. XXVI.

WILL GRATIFY THE READER'S IMPATIENCE WITH THE CONCLUSION OF MRS. M——'S HISTORY; AND ALSO WITH WHAT EFFECTS THE RECITAL OF IT PRODUCED IN THE MINDS OF THOSE WHO HEARD IT.

THE unfortunate Mrs. M—— having dried up her tears, and made the best apology she could to the ladies for this interruption, resumed her discourse in these words.

“I took up my lodgings, on my arrival here,” said she, “at the inn where I alighted, and sent immediately in search of Celandine: he came the next day; but his looks, before he spoke, made me know how little he was pleased with seeing me. “I thought, “Madam,” said he, “I said enough to prevent you from coming hither; and am surprized you should act in a manner so contrary to my inclination!”

“I told him that I found it impossible to live so long a time without him, and a great deal of such fond idle stuff; which he as little regarded as, indeed, it deserved: he insisted on my return to London the next morning; which, after some tears, I at last promised to do, on condition that he

would dine with me that day. It was with some difficulty I prevailed upon him to give me his company, even for the few hours I requested it: nor would I have taken so much pains to obtain so small a favour, if I had not flattered myself with being able to win him yet farther to my purpose.

“But my hopes deceived me: in vain I tried all the arts that love inspired me with; he was inflexible to all my entreaties, unmoved by my endearments, and treated all I said to him on the score of my staying here with so much contempt, that the pride and spirit, which my passion for him had but too much quelled, began to rouse themselves in me. I told him that he had no right to prescribe the place of my residence; that Bath was equally as free for me as for himself; and that I would not leave it. On this he started up; and, with a countenance full of spite—“It is very well!” said he; “you then may stay: but, I fancy, you will find it extremely difficult to support yourself either here, or any where else, without my assistance; which, you may be assured, I shall never afford to one who acts in opposition to my will.”

“The consideration of my wretched circumstances made me tremble at this menace, and again reduced me to submission: I implored his pardon for the rashness of my passion, and promised I would hereafter do every thing as he would have me. This pacified him; and, sitting down again—“I would have you,” said he, “behave like a reasonable woman, and one who knows the world: our amour has been of a long continuance; and you cannot expect a man like me should always confine himself to one object. To deal sincerely with you, I am here on the invitation of a woman of condition, whom I have the good fortune to be well with: if you offer to interfere with my pleasures, I have done with you for ever; therefore it depends entirely on yourself to keep me your friend or not.”

“It is amazing, even to myself, to think how I had the power to conceal the agonies which rent my heart at this impudent declaration: yet it is certain that I did so; I avowed to do every

every thing he required of me, and to regulate my conduct, henceforward, so as never to offend him. He seemed pleased with my assurance; put five guineas into my hand to defray the unnecessary expences, as he called it, of my coming hither; gave me a kiss, wished me a good journey; and then left me to indulge the transports of a rage the more violent for having been suppressed.

I did not, however, waste much time in giving way to emotions which would neither avail my love or my revenge. To think of doing what I had promised to him was far from me; I resolved to see the face that had supplanted me in his affections; how afterwards I would behave I did not then consider. This was the first great point on which my soul was fixed; and, to accomplish it, I went that evening and hired a lodging in the most private part of the town. The people of the house, on my signifying to them that I wanted an adroit boy, or young fellow, to run on errands, and wait on me, while I staid at Bath, were so kind to help me to one exactly fit for my purpose: he had been waiter at a coffee-house last season when Celandine was here, and he knew him perfectly well.

The chief business I employed him in was to stand sentry near the house where Celandine lodged, to watch him wherever he went; to find out the names and characters of the persons he visited; and to bring me an exact account. By the diligence of this emissary I discovered that he visited here every day; that he constantly attended three ladies from hence to the walks, the long-room, the play, and all publick places; that one of these ladies he seemed most particularly attached to; and that she was called Lady Speck.

Mr. Lovegrove turned his eyes on Lady Speck, at these words, with some surprize: she was in a good deal of confusion, and cried out—'Your spy was mistaken in his intelligence in this point: his attachment was equal to us all; and, I dare say, was equally regarded.'

'Pardon me, Madam,' resumed the unfortunate historian; 'I knew not then, nor am yet certain, to which of

you the name of Lady Speck belongs. You will not wonder that, in those moments of my jealous rage, I wished destruction on the charms that had undone me: but this unlucky day, above all, I was least able to command my passion; the boy brought word that he had seen Celandine in the walks with two of you, whom presently he quitted, and hurried to this house; on which I concluded the third lady, who staid at home, and to whom he was in so much haste to retire, was the person whom I should henceforth look on as my rival; and at that instant, fired with emotions to which reason can set no bounds, I mustered myself up as you see, and ran through the streets like one broke loose from Bedlam. On my coming here I found the door open; a servant-maid was doing something in the hall; and, on my enquiring for Celandine, she told me he had come in a little before, and, she believed, was then in the arbour at the lower end of the garden; for she had seen him pass that way. I flew directly to the place she mentioned; but the fury I was in had so blinded me, that I did not readily perceive the entrance. I heard the voice of my perfidious lover, and thrust my head through the lattice; and my whole body had certainly broke through that slender partition, if those who occasioned my despair had not that moment rushed out of the place. At this sight distraction took possession of my brain; all hell, and it's worst furies, were in my heart; I drew my penknife, resolved to sheath it in the villain's breast.—But I know not how it was,' continued she, addressing herself to Jenny, 'you, Madam, were nearest to me; and the blow I meant for him, in my mistaken rage was aimed at you: what followed I am wholly ignorant of; for my disappointed rage recoiling upon myself, together with the rude blow the villain gave me in wresting the penknife from my hand, stopped all the springs of life, till your charitable endeavours put them again in motion, and called me back to sense, to shame, to misery, and the racks of thought.'

Thus did Mrs. M—— conclude her tedious narrative, but did not give over

speaking till she afresh entreated pardon of the company for the disturbance she had occasioned in the family, and of Jenny in particular, who had suffered most through the extravagance she had been guilty of; to which that young lady, with a great deal of sweetness, though not without some blushes at the remembrance of Celandine's behaviour, replied in these terms: 'I can easily forgive the fright you put me into,' said she, 'as I know not but it was your seasonable interruption which chiefly preserved me from a worse mischief than that which I was threatened with by your mistaken jealousy.'

'I did not know, my dear,' said Miss Wingman with a gay air, 'that the inclinations of Celandine were devoted to you; or that he left us so abruptly in the walks on purpose to have the pleasure of entertaining you alone.' Jenny was about to make some answer, but was prevented by Mr. Lovegrove, who hastily taking up the word, cried out—'It is difficult, Madam, to know the real inclinations of a man such as Celandine; for I take him to be one of those so elegantly described by Mr. Rowe in his play called the Fair Penitent—

"A singing, dancing, worthless tribe they are,  
"Who talk of beauties that they never saw,  
"And boast of favours that they ne'er enjoyed."

In repeating these lines, he fixed his eyes on Lady Speck, who seeming more than ordinarily pensive, and making no answer, he went on: 'The poet,' resumed he, 'throughout that whole performance, shews himself very much a friend to the ladies, especially when he gives them this advice:

"Were you, ye fair, but cautious whom you trust,  
"Would you but think how seldom fools are just,  
"So many of your sex would not, in vain,  
"Of faithless men, and broken vows, complain."  
"Of all the various wretches love has made,  
"How few have been by men of sense betray'd!  
"Convinc'd by reason, they your power confess,  
"Pleas'd to be happy as you're pleas'd to be;  
"And, conscious of your worth, can never love you less."

Here ensued a silence, which perhaps had continued yet longer, if it had not been broke by Miss Wingman, that young lady having her thoughts more at liberty than any of the company, and who indeed loved talking so well, that it was a pain to her to forbear it for a considerable time. Turning towards Mrs. M——, 'I am surprized, Madam,' said she, 'that your unfaithful lover, having the confidence to avow his guilt, by telling you that he came down to Bath on the invitation of a woman of fashion, you had not the curiosity to ask him the name and quality of the person for whose sake you were undone; since he had so little discretion as to let you into one part of the secret, he would certainly have made you acquainted with the whole, if you had desired it.'

'It must be confessed,' rejoined Jenny, 'that such an enquiry would have been highly natural in Mrs. M——; and, if answered to her satisfaction, might have saved her the trouble of employing an emissary to watch the motions of Celandine: but, for my part, I have little cause to wish it had been so; since it was to her mistaken jealousy I was indebted for the seasonable relief I received from the insolent impertinences of that vain and unworthy coxcomb.'

'It is also possible, Madam,' cried Mr. Lovegrove, in an extraordinary emotion, 'such an eclairecissement might have been attended with worse consequences than you think on. Who can tell, added he, with still more vehemence, 'but that he might have mentioned the name of some lady who wants not an admirer zealous enough to have vindicated her reputation at the expence of his own life, or that of the traducer?'

'I know not,' replied Mrs. M——, sighing, 'what consequences may have been prevented, or what might have ensued, by the discovery of my rival; but this I am certain of, that I was so shocked at his ingratitude, so astonished at his assurance, and so terrified with his menaces, that I had neither presence of mind nor courage to put the question to him.'

Lady Speck, who had not spoke one syllable for a considerable time, now affected a prodigious *gaieté de cœur*: 'The demand you mean,' said she, 'I believe



‘believe would have been to very little purpose; I dare answer Celandine would have been strangely puzzled to have informed you in any particulars of the fond lady for whose sake he came to Bath: men of his romantick disposition worship images of their own formation, boast of visionary favours, and take as much pleasure in the shadow as others do in the substance.’

‘True, Madam,’ cried Mr. Lovegrove, gravely; ‘but if they should happen to assign real names to their ideal mistresses, what but the blood of such a villain could atone for his presumption?’ No reply was made to this; and Mrs. M——, thinking it would best become her to take leave of the com-

pany, which she did in the most respectful manner, every body assured her they pitied her misfortunes, and that they sincerely wished something might happen to extricate her from the labyrinth in which she was at present involved.

After she was gone, there soon remained none but Miss Wingman and Jenny to maintain a conversation. Mr. Lovegrove, a good deal disconcerted at some passages he had heard related by Mrs. M——, pretending business called him, went away; and Lady Speck, who was extremely out of humour, and had been at some pains to conceal it, took this opportunity of retiring to her closet, in order to compose the troubles of her mind.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

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